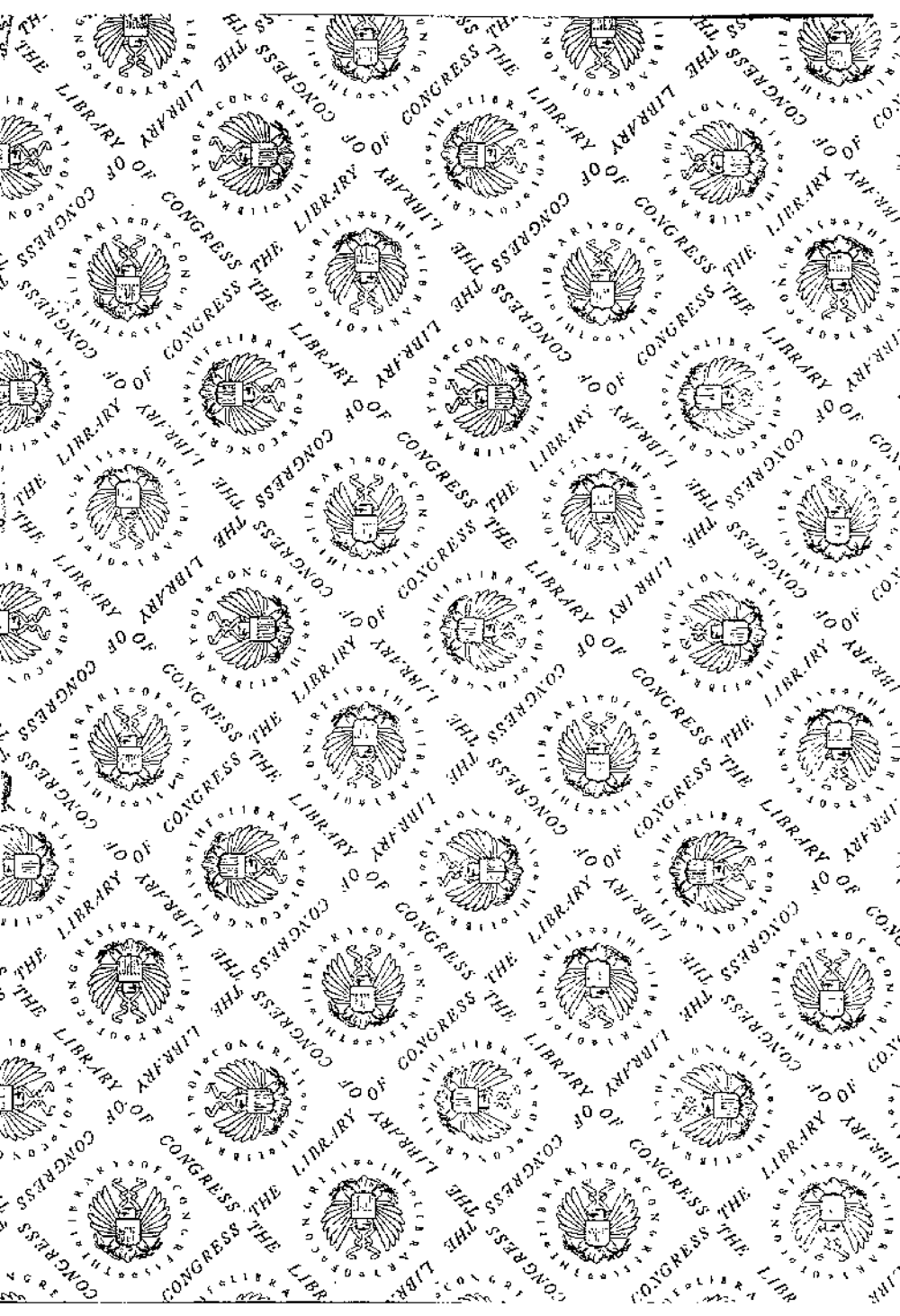


ANCESTRY
of the
THRUSTON-PHILLIPS
FAMILIES



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BUCKNER THRUSTON.

U. S. Senator from Kentucky, 1804-1809; U. S. Judge, District
of Columbia, 1809-1845.

From an old painting on cardboard, artist unknown.

A SKETCH
OF THE ANCESTRY OF

The Thruston-Phillips Families

WITH SOME RECORDS OF THE DICKINSON,
HOUSTON, JANUARY ANCESTRY, AND ALLIED
FAMILY CONNECTIONS



By GEN. GATES PHILLIPS THRUSTON
OF NASHVILLE, TENN.

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PREFACE.

This sketch of the Thruston-Phillips ancestry has been prepared mainly for the benefit of my sons, as they may not have the inclination, patience and love of investigation necessary to interest them in the incidents and details of our family history. To limit the sketch to an outline of our direct line of descent has been a difficult problem. There are so many collateral members of the family in whom I feel a natural pride and deep interest, that it has been a constant temptation to include in my brief story their names and history, but I have not had the leisure to enlarge the scope of my labor of love beyond the line of our direct ancestry.

Our "Thruston Family Book," a unique and original record of genealogy, contains a most complete history of our father's lineage, that will give my sons the names and degrees of relationship of almost an army of our cousins and collateral relatives, many of whom I know well and remember with sincere affection.

I have also been compelled to limit my sketch to past generations. If time permitted, it would be a loving duty to continue the family history down into the present generation, and to tell my sons the story of our happy family circle in years long gone in the old home at Dayton, and something of the life of my dear brothers and sisters, and of our kindred and associates there, but unhappily I have had to deny myself this pleasure.

As will be observed, this little volume, intended for the family circle of readers, is mainly a compilation of facts, rather than an attempt to produce a work of literary merit. But a limited edition will

be published. I have illustrated it with such pictures and portraits as I have been able to secure. Unfortunately there are no portraits extant of Colonel Charles Mynn Thruston, Wm. Churchill Houston, Captain Jonathan Phillips or Robert Alexander Thruston. I am under very many obligations to our cousin, R. C. Ballard Thruston, of Louisville, Kentucky, for his generous assistance in many ways.

G. P. T.

Nashville, Tennessee, January 1st, 1909.

The Thruston Ancestry

The quaint old record book now in possession of one of our Kentucky cousins, has fortunately preserved an outline of the history of the Thruston family for over three hundred years. The record dates from the reign of James the First of England, A. D. 1604. It has been handed down in the direct line from father to son, thru nine successive generations, and gives in original entries the dates of birth, and baptism, marriage, and deaths, and other incidents of family history during these three centuries. My sons represent the tenth generation.*

The first entry in the record is as follows:

"John Thruston, the son of Malathias Thruston, of Wellington, in Somerset, was baptized in ye Parish Church of Wellington on ye 8th of June, 1606—being Whit-Sunday."

This John Thruston, who is designated in the record as "Chamberlaine of this citty of Bristoll" in England, was blessed with two wives, and consumes a considerable part of the book in registering his family history, as may be inferred from the following

*Dr. John Thruston, of Louisville, inherited this ancient record book from his father, Colonel John Thruston (our grand uncle), and his heirs now have possession of it. He kindly loaned it to me for a year or more, and I made a copy of it. Our cousin, R. C. Ballard Thruston, of Louisville, had a most interesting photographic copy made, and added many valuable items of information, including photographs of the old English Churches, where the ancestors of the family were buried, and of the ancient home of our branch of the Thrustons. He also complimented the Thruston side of his family by changing his name by law from Ballard to Ballard-Thruston, the latter being the name of his mother's family.

entry, closing the list of his children. (See *fac simile*, Plate I.)

"This the first day of June, 1656, about 12 of ye clocke at noone, being Sunday, my wife was delivered of a daughter, w(hi)ch makes my 24th child; 12 sons and 12 daughters. Shee was baptized ye 6th day of ye same month, and nam'd Sara.

My cousin James Thruston

My cousin Sara Bridges

and Mrs Brimsdon (were) gossips."

It seems that "gossip" was the old English word for sponsor, or God-parent at baptism. Each child baptized was attended by three gossips, whose names are entered in the record with special formality.

From the following entry made at the time it appears that the Thrustons were loyalists:

"The first May 1660 King Charles ye second was voted in Parliemt (Parliament) to bee ye undoubted heire to ye Crowne. Ye 4th of sd May there was great rejoyseing in Bristoll for ye offoresd vote. Ye 8th of said May ye King was proclaimed in London wyth exceeding great joye, and ye 10th of sd May hee was proclaimed in Bristoll wyth great joye and triumphe. Ye cundiette (conduit) running wyth wine."*

"Ye 23rd of Apr. the King was crownd. Ye 29th May was his bearth day in ye yeare 1629."

Edward Thruston of the third generation, makes the following entry in the old record book:

"This Booke Coming to my hands, I thought good to insert the marryages, Births and burrialls

*Sir Walter Scott in his historical novel, *Woodstock*, has used the same remarkable expression in describing King Charles' progress to London, attended by immense crowds of his friends and adherents. He says, "The restored monarch trod slowly over roads strewed with flowers and *conduits running with wine*."

PLATE I.

This first day of June 1656
 a boyl ~~full~~ 12 of 10 Clock
 at noon being Sunday my
 wife was delivered of a —
 daughter wth make my
 24th Child 12 sons & 12
 daughters 1st was baptiz^d
 10 11th day of 10 same
 month & named Sara
 my Son James Thurston
 my Son Sara Bridges
 & m^{rs} Brington Gyggs

Facsimile of the writing of John Thurston, Chamberlaine of the
 City of Bristol, England. A. D. 1656.

and Christenings of those that doe and did appertaine to my family by the name of Edward Thruston, son of the above sd Mr. John Thruston Dicaased."

His father's death is noted as follows:

"This 8th day of April, 1675, my father, Mr. John Thruston, being Chamberlaine of this citty of Bristol eleven years and eleven months, departed this life and was buryed the 12th inst, in St. Thomas Church yard and on the south side of my mother, who departed this the 30th of November, 1647, as before specified." (See *fac simile* Plate II.)

Edward Thruston doubtless brought the family record to America, as the next entry announces his marriage as follows:

"I was married to Ann Loving, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Loving, merchant, the 28th day of October, 1666, at Martin's Hundred in Virginia, but ye celebration of ye wedding was at ye ch(urch) of Chippoacks in ye same country (Virginia) by Wm. Murray, ye minister."

There is an early record, however, stating that the first Thruston arrived in Gloucester County, Virginia, in 1742.*

The old English writing in the record is well preserved, but is difficult to read owing to its ancient letters, spelling, and abbreviations as shown in the *fac simile* plates. An original record of such antiquity, dating back about three hundred years, and containing the writing of each succeeding generation, is rarely to be seen.

The arms of the Thruston family are impressed upon the wax seal attached to the will of Edward

*See the flag of the Union, Boston, July 4th, 1868.

Thruston of the fourth generation, preserved in the records of Norfolk County, in Virginia.*

The old family record states that John Thruston of the city of Bristol "was baptized in ye Parish Church of Wellington, Somerset, June the 8th. A. D. 1606, being Whit-Sunday," and that his mother was buried in February, A. D. 1651, in the church yard of the Parish Church at (West) Buckland, near Wellington.

Our cousin, R. C. Ballard Thruston, of Louisville, Ky., when in England some years ago, visited the quaint old town of Wellington, and also West Buckland. Somerset is one of the southwest counties of England, lying along the broad waters of the Severn River, below the city of Bristol. He also visited "Ruggin Court," near Wellington, known as the "old estate of the Thruston family," and doubtless the early home of our ancestor, John Thruston, but he could trace no one of the name in that vicinity. Its latest Thruston owner was named Malachi, the familiar family name. He writes that the mansion at Ruggin Court was "well preserved, tho it had been remodelled more than once; that it was built of brick and stone two stories high, with an attic. The ceilings were ornate, the floor of oak

*See William and Mary College Quarterly, Vol. IV, page 182, also see Appendix. In his will, dated 1761, Sept. 25th, Edward Thruston bequeathed a "quart silver Tankard" to his grandson, Charles Mynn Thruston. See also copy of original patent granting the Thruston arms, A. D. 1586, registered in family record, page 37, and in Appendix, page 64.

A proclamation was recently issued by a committee of genealogical inquiry duly appointed by the British College of Heraldry, giving a list of 177 American families from England to whom Patents of arms had been issued. Twenty-one of the number resided in Kentucky, and the list of names was given by the secretary of the commission, including the names of the Thruston family of that State.

PLATE II.

This 5th day of April 1675 my
father m^r John Thruston (being
Chambelaine of this City of
Bristol 11 y^{rs} & 11 months)
departed this life & was buryed
the 12th instant in St Thomas
Church. and on the south side of
my mother who departed his
life the 30th of Novemb^r 1647 as
before specified.

This Book being com^{ing} to my hand
I thought good to present the
marriages, Births, Burialls &
Christnings of they that die &
dit appertain to my family; by
The name of Edward Thruston
Son of the above m^r John
Thruston digresseth ~ ~ ~

Memoranda. I was married the 2nd
of May the daughter of m^r Thomas
(being m^r Edward) the 28th day of Octob^r
1666 at martins hundred in
Virginia. But the celebration of
the wedding was at Chycoaky in the
same County Virginia. ~ ~ ~
by m^r Murrey minister

Facsimile of the writing of Edward Thruston of Virginia.
Son of John Thruston. A. D. 1675.

and everything massive." He was informed that it was the most notable ancient mansion in that section. It was evidently a comfortable old home in its day. The old Porter's Lodge was also still standing. It is over 350 years old. A lane of lofty trees led from the roadway to the court. The estate is now the property of Mr. Alexander Richards, who treated our American visitor with every courtesy, and gave him some interesting facts relating to the history of the Thruston ownership.

Mr. Ballard Thruston also visited the old churches mentioned in the family record. The Parish church at Wellington, the "Church of John the Baptist," where John Thruston was baptized, is still standing, though it was partly destroyed by the troops of Oliver Cromwell. The arched doorway of the church is nearly a thousand years old. Within the chancel of the church at West Buckland, where John Thruston's mother was buried, were five ornamental tablets of stone, erected in memory of the Thrustons of Ruggin Court, beginning with:

"Edward Thruston gent, born A. D. 1589. Died May 3, 1653."

The other names on the tablets, Malachi, Thomazine, Grace and Edward, were all names perpetuated in John Thruston's family record. Upon the tomb of Malachi Thruston (born 1628) was the inscription in latin (translated) "Doctor of Medicine, associate of Sidney College, Cambridge. He was generous to the poor, kind to all, source of safety to the sick."*

As there were no other memorial tablets in the church at West Buckland, it may be presumed that the Thrustons of Ruggin Court were of some local

*He was probably the author of an important medical work by Dr. Malachi Thruston, mentioned in Allibone's Dictionary of Authors, published about that date.

importance in their day and generation. Their residence was about a mile and a half from the church, and five miles from Wellington.

The Parish Church of St. Thomas at Bristol, where John Thruston's twenty-four children were baptized, was unfortunately destroyed years ago. Only the ancient tower remains, but upon examination of the original church register, which had been preserved, our cousin, Mrs. Fanny Ballard Thruston, of Louisville, Ky., upon visiting Bristol found that our ancestor, John Thruston, had been for many years a member of the Vestry and Warden of the church. The old "Chamberlaine" or City Treasurer, must have been a stirring and enterprising citizen. Bristol was at that early day a very large and important city, the second seaport of England. Sebastian Cabot, the first Englishman, who landed in America, sailed from that port.

From the Chamberlain's long and elaborate will we have learned that he was also a manufacturer, probably upon a somewhat extensive scale, as he left a considerable fortune to his family, in various "messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, and their appurtenances," also in "goods, chattels, linnen, woollen, plate, brasse, pewter, rings, jewels, household stuffe" and other items of personal property as set forth in the will.

His eldest son, Malachy, and his son Edward had gone to America, and in his will he partly disinherited Malachy because "he hath proved undutiful unto me in refusing to return home (from Virginia) according to my several commands."

Some years prior to our cousin R. C. Ballard Thruston's visit to the old English home and churches, I had the very great pleasure of visiting another branch of the Thruston family, residing in Wales. Upon the quite urgent invitation of Mr. Charles

PLATE III.



The Parish Church at Wellington, England, where John Thruston was baptized A. D. 1606.

Frederick Thruston, of Talgarth Hall, near Machynlleth, my wife and I spent two very delightful weeks at his hospitable home in 1879. Comparatively few American tourists, I presume, have an opportunity of knowing and enjoying the real social life of England,—its social life at its best. There I am sure we found it. Mr. Thruston was an ideal host in an ideal home. His wife also gave us a most hearty welcome. The estate at Talgarth Hall embraced some 5,000 acres in that most beautiful section of Wales. A part of the old stone mansion house was 500 years old.

Our visit was in the spring, when all rural England is picturesque and charming to an American traveler. No description can do full justice to the flowers and woodland, the meadows and hills at Talgarth. The grounds about the mansion were groomed like a city park and the landscape was unsurpassed in beauty. Thanks to our English cousin and his fine horses, we visited a number of old English estates and homes miles away. The Marchioness of Londonderry, Mr. Thruston's first cousin, invited us to her spacious summer home near Machynlleth, to hear the children of the Welsh School on her estate, of which she was patroness, sing their strange, sweet Welsh songs, a visit I still recall with pleasure. She gave us a delightful luncheon. Indeed, no American hostess could have been more kindly cordial than this charming, unaffected noble English lady. Mr. Thruston was magistrate for his county, a most honorable and important office in Wales. His wife was the granddaughter of Lady Nelson, wife of Lord Admiral Nelson.

For some generations our Maryland and Virginia cousins have corresponded and claimed kinships with this branch of the English family, and "Mr. Charles" and I, after looking thru his family rec-

ords were able to trace the relationship with almost absolute certainty. All the familiar family names of the Malachy Thruston branch were duplicated in this family record. The arms of the Talgarth branch in all details were identical with the arms on the seal of Edward Thruston of Norfolk County, Virginia.

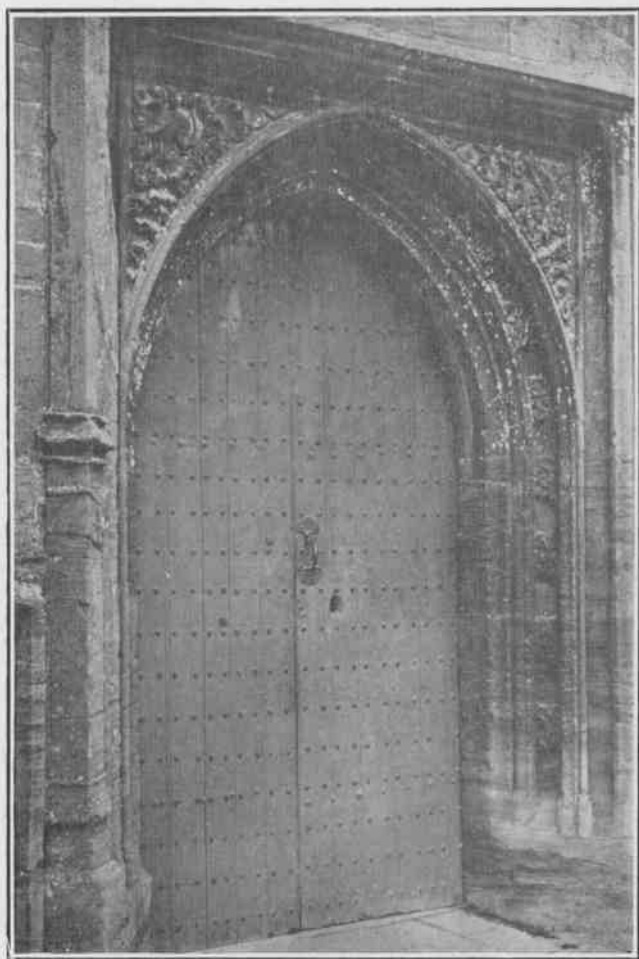
Perhaps it was in part my imagination, but in features and expression our "Cousin Charles" certainly looked like one of our American Thrustons. In discussing the family relationship at dinner one evening, our hostess, Mrs. Thruston, inquired of my wife if the Thruston men in America were "as exceedingly fond of the ladies as their English cousins were." "Yes," my wife replied, "that is one of their marked characteristics; I feel sure these two cousins must be blood relations."

"Mrs. Charles" seemed so much in earnest that I feared the conversation was about to take a serious turn, but happily she only said, "My, my," and let the Thruston men off without further remark. Meantime Mr. Charles and I became engaged in an animated discussion about other absorbing topics until the dinner was nearly over.*

The first American Thrustons settled at an early date at Gloucester Point, in Gloucester County, Virginia, named after the old home county in England, a beautiful commanding site on York River, opposite historic Yorktown. It was one of the outposts of Lord Cornwallis at the time of the surrender, and

*Mr. Charles F. Thruston, of Talgarth Hall, near Machynlleth, died some years ago and his son Nesbit is now the owner of the estate in Wales. Capt. Edmund Heathcote Thruston, of Pennel Tower (nephew of Charles), visited us at Nashville in 1893, and Major Lechmere Russell and his sister, of Herefordshire, England, and of the same Thruston connection, were our guests for some weeks. In 1880 we were most pleasantly entertained by them at their home, "The Lodge," near Leominster, in Herefordshire.

PLATE IV.



The Arched Doorway under the Tower of Wellington Church,
supposed to be nearly 1000 years old.

looked out upon the broad inlet that opens into Chesapeake Bay. Here in colonial days the family lived after the manner of the old Virginia planters, and we may presume in comparative luxury.

In the history of Gloucester County, Virginia,* I find that "as late as 1861 an old brick house built by an early colonist named Thruston bore solitary witness of its colonial neighbors at Gloucester Towne. An elm, wide spreading and magnificent, was its body guard. Union soldiers set fire to this old fashioned mansion, big with bye-gone grandeur, and a noble pedigree, for no other reason that I can see, except to destroy a landmark from Virginia shores."

The same authority states that "two curiously carved old mantel pieces had been carried away from the old Thruston mansion" by Mrs. Thruston, who married a Lewis, and are still to be seen in the beautiful Lewis home.†

COL. CHARLES MYNN THRUSTON,‡

Of the fourth generation of Virginia Thrustons, was born in the old brick mansion at Gloucester Point, in August, 1738. He was perhaps the first of his family to attain marked distinction in the history of his native State. He was born in the heroic age that gave birth to the patriots of the American Revolution, and devoted his life and energies to the cause of the colonies.

*S. N. Robins, published by West Johnson & Co., Richmond, Va., page 5.

†The old residence of Col. Robert Thruston of the fifth generation, is still standing upon his estate, "Landsdowne," Gloucester County, and some of his descendants of the Thruston name reside in that county.

‡In the earliest record sometimes spelled Charles Minn Thruston.

There is an interesting sketch of the life and character of Col. Thruston in the Southern Literary Messenger of March, 1840, published at Richmond, Virginia, a record well worthy of reproduction in these memoirs and from which I have taken the following liberal extract.*

"After the usual course at the grammar school, young Thruston was sent to finish his education at the College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg; being destined either by his father or his own impulses to the clerical profession. He there studied divinity in the best theological school then in the colonies. No one of the colonies was at that time more cherished and patronized by the royal government than Virginia. No College in the country was so well endowed, or possessed more able and learned professors than William and Mary.

"The Church of Virginia had been modeled as near as circumstances would permit after that of England, and was under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Bishop of London, who had a substitute in the colony under the domination of an ecclesiastical commissary, invested with a kind of Episcopal superintendence over the Episcopal clergy. The rectors had their glebes and salaries of 16,000 pounds of tobacco per annum, paid by tax on the tithable inhabitants of the parishes.

"In the year 1758, when Mr. Thruston was in his 20th year, General Forbes was sent over by the British Government to take command of the army of regulars and provincials, raised for the purpose of an expedition against Fort Duquesne, now Pittsburg, and to rescue the wounded honor of the nation from the disgrace brought upon it by the shameful defeat

*A reprint of this sketch was kindly loaned to me by Professor James A. Harrison, of the University of Virginia, one of Colonel Thruston's descendants.

PLATE V.



St. Marys—The Parish Church, West Buckland, where John Thruston's mother
was buried A. D. 1651.



and slaughter of the army under General Braddock three years before. Young Thruston, inspired with that ardor which in a more noble cause, some twenty years afterwards, again prompted him to enter the tented field, obtained the appointment of Lieutenant of Provincials, and marched with the army to Pittsburg, which they entered without opposition, the French having abandoned it on the approach of the British troops.

"The enemy offered no opposition to the march of the troops, except some inconsiderable attacks on the piquets during the night, by the Indians probably, which the writer of this memoir remembers to have heard Mr. Thruston speak of as being particularly alarming to the young soldier, from being made in the darkness. Here he had the honor of serving with and under the immediate command of General Washington. Whether this campaign was made by young Thruston previous to his entering college or while he was a student there is not known, but in the latter part of 1765, or the spring of 1766, he embarked for London for the purpose of examination and ordination by the Bishop of that Diocese.*

"There was much strictness in the examination of candidates for the pulpit in those days. None but such as were qualified by education and character could receive ordination, particularly in Virginia, where the policy of the government required the Church to be as respectable as possible, inasmuch as that establishment, both at home and in her favorite colony, was considered as intimately connected with and essential towards the maintenance and prosperity of the government itself. It is reasonable to suppose that Mr. Thruston, having passed this ordeal of rigid examination, must have received a good

*See Bishop Meade's "Old Churches and Families of Virginia,"

classical as well as theological education. These facts would not have been mentioned with such minuteness were it not that they offered him the means of being useful at a future crisis, when all the energy of the human mind is required to sustain us in the most arduous and fearful contest that any nation ever had to struggle with, to break the fetters of despotism.

"On his return from London he was chosen by the vestry rector of a parish church in his native county of Gloucester, where he regularly officiated until the year 1769, when he removed to the county of Frederick, in Virginia, among a people at that time rude and unpolished.

"Here he continued his pastoral functions, preaching in such places as could be procured, there being few or no churches then erected on this comparatively new and thinly settled country.

"Shortly after his removal to Frederick he was followed by other wealthy families from Gloucester, and others of the lower counties of Virginia, who by their superior education and refinement contributed to soften and polish the rough manners that characterized those people before their introduction among them. The writer well remembers hearing Parson Thruston speak of a few great landed proprietors who lorded it over the people when he first moved to Frederick, with a most arbitrary sway, until they found a check in the more educated emigrants of the lower counties, whose wealth and influence furnished a counter poise to the power of these petty tyrants.

"Parson Thruston continued in the practice of his profession until the period of the commencement of hostilities, when, animated by the liveliest zeal, he gave himself up chiefly to public concerns. He had been among the most prominent in repelling the

PLATE VI.



Ruggin Court, the old Thruston Homestead near West Buckland, as it appeared in 1896.

attempt to introduce the Stamp Act in Virginia, and with the same spirit entered warmly into the opposition to the mother country. At this period his wealth, for he was a man of large property, was freely dedicated to the cause. He exerted himself to procure arms and ammunition; he wrote and addressed the people in public meetings, and musters, and at the courts, inflaming the youth of the country with ardor and patriotism, exciting them to enter into the army and confirming the weak and timid, not only by exposing the justice of resistance, but by the most spirited and stirring harrangues.

"In the winter of 1776-77 Parson Thruston resolved to put in practice personally the measures he had exhorted the youth of the country to pursue. In plain English he resolved to fight. He raised a company of volunteers composed of the *elite* of the young men of the county, and marched to join General Washington, then in New Jersey. He was cordially received by that great man, who was personally acquainted with him, not only as a fellow soldier in Forbes' Campaign, but from personal intercourse that took place between them after Parson Thruston removed to the county of Frederick. He was but a short time at headquarters before he became impatient of inactivity and anxious to indulge his propensity for a fight. He accordingly solicited the means from the General, who gave him 500 men, with discretionary authority, as it seems from the evidence, and without suggesting or ordering any particular enterprise, because we find the Captain immediately after attacking a British redoubt of 1,500 strong. With his small band of 500 men, which the Commander-in-Chief, it is reasonable to suppose, would hardly have permitted or directed with so small a force. Be that as it may, however, the Captain marched to the attack, resolved, if pos-

sible, to carry the redoubt by storm, when in the midst of his career and advancing toward the enemy he received a musket ball in the left arm above the elbow, which shattered the bone. It was a curious circumstance that the Captain, having at the time a country linen shirt, its texture was so strong that the linen was forced by the ball through the arm.

"He fainted from the loss of blood and the pain of the wound, and was obliged to be carried from the field. At this time his son Charles was standing by his side, a boy between eleven and twelve years old. When the leader of the brave band fell, the next in command ordered a retreat. There can be but little doubt that but for this disabling wound Captain Thruston would have effected his purpose of carrying the redoubt by storm if his men would have followed him, or that he, his son and a great portion of his troops would have fallen in the attempt. This battle (though of no high importance in its practical effects, had its result fulfilled, even the hopes of its gallant commander) yet presents such a picture of patriotism, courage and self-devotion that it cannot but command the admiration of every lover of his country. What is it that confers, true glory on the hero and patriot? Is it that he leads on to battle his thousands or tens of thousands, and if he gains a victory that his claim to glory is to be measured by the number conquered or the number slain? Victory may, and often does, depend on accidental circumstances. No, it is the warm blood and magnanimous soul which urge the brave man on to meet and to defy the king of terrors in a just cause—to prefer death to dishonor and slavery, which characterizes the hero and patriot.

"When Captain Thruston returned to headquarters General Washington had him attended by his own surgeon, who having advised amputation, the Cap-

PLATE VII.



The Old Thatched Roof Porter's Lodge of Ruggin Court, known to be over 350 years old.



tain courteously and playfully refused his assent in the following words:

"Doctor, I am a bad *hand* to have an arm cut off," declaring at the same time that he would prefer death to mutilation. Notwithstanding the apprehensions of the surgeon, his arm healed in about twelve months, at which time several pieces of bone, having worked down through the muscles, came out in his hand. Soon after this battle General Washington recommended the Captain for the appointment of Colonel of one of the sixteen regiments then about to be raised in Virginia on continental establishment, which appointment he received and held to the end of the war. It was found impossible to recruit such a number of regiments in Virginia, and the Colonel became what is called supernumerary, but was desirous of again entering into active service had an opportunity offered. This is made manifest by a passage in one of his letters to his Lieutenant-Colonel, John Thornton, on regimental business, where he says: "What is to be done with us? Are we to be thrown aside like old almanacs, no longer useful?"

"After his return from the army he never resumed his pastoral functions. There was not the same dearth of clergymen as when he first removed to the upper country. Both Episcopalian and Dissenting ministers of various denominations had come into the county, sufficient for the wants of the people. He continued to reside on his beautiful farm, called Mount Sion, about fifteen miles below Winchester, and one mile above the charming Shenandoah, distinguished for the purity and transparency of its water. He had been from the period of his first settlement in the county one of its magistrates, and continued to discharge the duties of that office as long as he resided therein; having been the oldest magistrate of the county and Presiding Judge of the

county court for many years before he left it. He was often elected member of the General Assembly, where he had the pleasure of hearing and acting with the Henrys and the Lees, the great orators and patriots of those days.

"Having met with heavy losses, with a numerous family of children, and grandchildren, for whom he was anxious to make some provision, he resolved for their sakes to remove to the western country and accordingly, in the year 1809, having sold his farm, he went to South West Point, in Tennessee, and after residing there two years he descended the river to the State of Mississippi, where he contracted a disease, which in a few months terminated his life in June, 1812, in his seventy-fourth year. Before his death, however, he had purchased a plantation below New Orleans, situated on the very battle ground on which the glorious victory of General Jackson over the British was achieved on the 8th of January, 1815. He had hardly taken possession of his farm before his body was deposited within its bosom. He died as he always declared he should, with the most perfect composure and contempt of death, supported by that Christian faith which he professed, and which cheered his last moments with its consoling promises.

"The author cannot refrain from relating an occurrence that took place about the spring of 1780, which is much in unison with the character of the Colonel, affording another proof of his unbending spirit, and of his abhorrence of everything, which savored of lawless violence as well as his readiness to contribute to the wants of the country. A troop of cavalry under command of Major Nelson was passing through the neighborhood and encamped some five or six miles from the Colonel's house, and being in want of flour, the commander sent four soldiers to his mill to sieze it. The Colonel being informed of this went

down to the mill, and finding that the men had no written authority to take the flour, he turned them out of his mill, with very little ceremony. The next day an officer, a Lieutenant Graves, appeared at the head of fifteen troops for the purpose of taking the flour by force. The Colonel went down again to the mill and resenting very warmly this renewed attempt to take his flour by violence, which would have been readily yielded to a proper application, he loaded his gun, entered the mill and barred the doors, and having warned the officer not to use force, he assured him in the most solemn manner that he would lose his life in the defense of his property.

"And I tell you, sir," addressing Graves, "that I am a very sure shot, and if you attempt to force the doors of my mill I will certainly kill you." The officer threatened destruction to the whole family, and after much vamping and menace, ordered his men to dismount. The author, then a lad, was present, and serious as the aspect of things appeared, could not help admiring the first movement of the soldiers, who in obedience to a command given, with one uniform and simultaneous motion, threw their right legs over their saddles and stood in their stirrups, awaiting the next order to descend. After a short pause they were ordered to resume their seats. It appeared that this movement was intended for intimidation rather than the first step toward the execution of his threatened purpose. It happened that a friend of the Colonel was present, a Mr. Edmond Taylor, who had offered to go into the mill to assist in its defense, but the Colonel declared that he would not agree to have any life but his own exposed to the hazard of resistance of the officer, that he was determined to sacrifice his own life if necessary in defense of his property. Mr. Taylor then turned to Graves, remonstrating against his lawless proceedings and

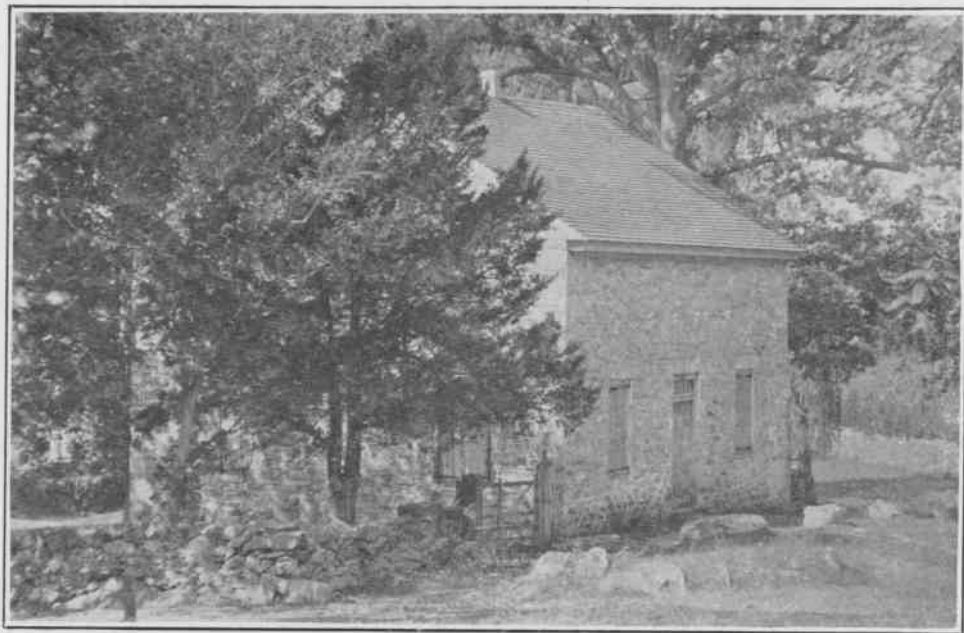
assured him of the firmness and determined resolution of the Colonel and of the eminent danger of losing his life if he attempted to force the mill. The officer began to waver, and his discretion getting the best of his valor, he relinquished the enterprise and condescended to apologize for his conduct, assuring the Colonel that the troops were in great want, and that in what he had done he had acted in pursuance of orders, and begged that the Colonel would let him have as much flour as he could spare. "Now, sir," said the Colonel, "as you asked for it like a gentleman, you shall have as much as you want, and be pleased to come to the house and dine with us." Old Major General Charles Lee had been spending some time at the house, and accompanied the Colonel and Mr. Taylor to the mill. Hobbling down with some difficulty a very rugged road, he cried out to the Colonel, "Commit the rascals to jail." This had like to have cost the General dear, for the officer threatened to throw him into the mill race, but inquiring who that old gentleman was, and being told it was General Lee, he refrained from offering any violence to him."

Major Generals Charles Lee and Horatio Gates, of the armies of the Revolution, settled in the same section of Virginia after the war. I notice in "Lee's Memoirs" that Colonel Thruston was one of General Lee's executors. Lee was much more brilliant as a writer than as a General. His ill temper and jealousy of General Washington finally brought him into disgrace. His remarkable will published in his Memoirs is often quoted.*

Among other provisions it contains the following unique clause:

*Life and Memoirs of Major-General Charles Lee, published in 1813, page 158.

PLATE VIII.



The Old Episcopal Church of Berryville, Virginia, where Rev. Charles M. Thruston preached before the Revolution. (From a recent photograph).

"I desire most earnestly that I may not be buried in any church or churchyard, or within a mile of any Presbyterian or Anabaptist meeting house, for since I have resided in this country I have kept so much bad company when living, that I do not chuse to continue it when dead."

In this will he bequeathed fifty guineas to Colonel Thruston, as he states, "in consideration of his good qualities and the friendship he manifested for me; and to Buckner Thruston, his son, I leave all my books, as I know he will make good use of them." Some of these books of General Lee's came to me by inheritance and are now in my library.

The historic old brick church at Berryville in the Shenandoah Valley, in which Parson Thruston often preached is still standing, and is one of the interesting landmarks of colonial Virginia.

As previously stated, Colonel Thruston remained about two years at "South West Point" in Tennessee near the junction of the Clinch and the Tennessee Rivers, now the site of the town of Kingston. There was a fort and garrison of soldiers there, and in pioneer days this outpost was on the dividing line between civilization and the wilderness of the southwest. The Legislature of the State of Tennessee met there in 1807. It seems the old Colonel tarried in this beautiful and healthful section of East Tennessee awaiting the development of some business interests, and watching the political situation in the southwest.

In one of his letters to my grandfather, his son Buckner (S. W. Point, Nov. 9th, 1810), he writes that he is determined to continue his journey and go down the Mississippi River "if the British, Spaniards, or French do not get possession of it, which I much fear." In excusing himself for not writing oftener to his son he says, "Old age grows on me, and I find

true the observation of Swift or Pope, that it also grows more talkative and less writative."

October 6th, 1810, he writes that his sons Edward and Alfred had gone on to Louisiana with "six negro hands" to prepare the plantation for him, and states that they were enraptured with the country.*

In 1811, with his family, slaves and possessions, Col. Thruston started upon his journey from South West Point in barges down the long winding rivers, the Tennessee, the Ohio and the Mississippi, destined for Natchez, New Orleans, and his new home in Louisiana "Madison Hall," a sugar plantation selected for him by his sons. What a fearful undertaking! He writes that Madison Hall was a league and a half below New Orleans, on the Mississippi River. His letter to his son, Buckner, from Natchez, describes in terms really pathetic the dangers and hardships of the long and weary journey. Two of his faithful negro slaves died on the way. It was a frightful experience for a man in his 74th year, but the letters of the sturdy old "Warrior Parson," as he is called in Howe's History of Virginia, are as full of spirit and determination as if he had been a man of forty.

In his letters Madison Hall was pictured as a paradise, but the old hero did not live long to enjoy its scenes and comforts, as he died March 21st, 1812, a few months after he reached there and three years before General Jackson won his splendid victory on that historic field. According to an old letter "he was buried a short distance southeast of the dwelling house beneath a cluster of orange trees."

*One of Colonel Thruston's daughters had married Colonel Frederick Conrad, of Louisiana, father of Hon. C. M. Conrad, Secretary of War in President Pearce's cabinet, and later a member of the Confederate Congress. Another daughter married Hon. Wm. Dangerfield, Secretary of Mississippi Territory, and resided at Natchez, Miss.

As Madison Hall was "a league and a half below New Orleans," I have endeavored to ascertain upon what part of the famous battlefield of New Orleans the remains of the "Warrior Parson" were deposited. A friend who has recently visited the Chalmette field showed me an excellent blue print map of it, and states that Madison Hall must have been located near the headquarters of General Jackson during the battle.*

Colonel Thruston was twice married. The family record book gives the names of his eleven children, about half the number that blessed his ancestor, John Thruston, of Bristol, England. Nine of them married into leading families of Virginia and the South, and as one might imagine their descendants would now fill a regiment and more. Whenever you meet one of them he seems proud to trace his ancestry to the old Virginia patriot.†

Years ago I had the pleasure of meeting a very old gentleman in Virginia who knew Col. Thruston personally. After I left college I spent some time in Washington and Alexandria, Virginia, and was invited to dine and spend the day at Arlington, the historic old home of the Custis and Lee families. There I met George Washington Park Custis, the

*Howe's Historical Collections of Virginia, page 283, states that "The battle of New Orleans was fought upon the place of his burial. The ruthless invader perished upon the tomb of the soldier-parson, who had employed tongue, pen and sword in the cause of American freedom, and perilled fortune and life under the Star Spangled Banner."

†See names of Col. Thruston's children in Appendix, page 62. Before the Civil War Hon. C. M. Conrad, of Louisiana, Secretary of War, a descendant of Colonel Thruston, presented to Mrs. Powell, wife of Admiral Powell, three small but beautiful pieces of the old Colonel's silverware, ornamented with the Thruston crest. Admiral Powell, during his last illness, presented them to me, and they will be found in the heirloom cabinet.

father of Mrs. Robert E. Lee and the adopted son of General Washington. When I was introduced to him he was quite cordial to me. "Yes," he said, "I knew your grandfather, Judge Thruston, quite well. He held court here in Alexandria. I also remember his father, the old Colonel." He said "Colonel Thruston used to drive down to Alexandria from his place on the Shenandoah very often. "Sometimes," he said, "in a coach and four and with a deal of style. He was a fine old gentleman, but after a time his family got bigger than his estate and threatened to eat up his fortune, so he sold out and moved to the southwest with all his belongings." Mr. Custis' son-in-law, Col. Robert E. Lee, a handsome officer of the regular army, was then at Arlington and sat nearly opposite me at dinner. From his fine face and courtly manner I readily recognized the nobility of his character, but he seemed sedate and reticent, and I cannot remember that he accorded me more recognition than a kindly smile and a grasp of the hand. How little I dreamed of the illustrious career that awaited this quiet dignified Virginia gentleman.

JUDGE BUCKNER THRUSTON.

My grandfather, Judge Buckner Thruston, the second son of Col. Charles Mynn Thruston and Mary Buckner, was born in Gloucester County, Virginia, in 1763; graduated at William and Mary College at Williamsburg, Va., and was educated for the legal profession. In 1788-90 he was elected a member of the Virginia Legislature, but soon afterwards decided to remove to Lexington, Kentucky, and enter upon the practice of his profession.

His voyage down the Ohio River proved a most perilous experience. His party was attacked from the Ohio shore by a band of sixty Indians. One of

their boats, their horses, and nearly all of their property were captured; they were pursued and fired upon during a chase of eight miles, barely escaping with their lives.*

The young Virginia lawyer soon arose to some prominence in his new home in Lexington. He was elected clerk of the first legislative assembly or "State Senate" that convened in Kentucky and in his official capacity as "B. Thruston, Clerk," etc., signed and certified to the famous Kentucky Resolutions of 1798. He was appointed in 1800 one of the three commissioners to settle contested points in the State line between Kentucky and Virginia. He was also commissioned one of the District Judges of Kentucky and remained upon the bench at Lexington seven or more years. In 1805 he was appointed by President Jefferson, United States Judge of "Orleans Territory," but before entering upon his duties he was elected United States Senator from Kentucky for a term of six years and accepted the latter position.

In 1809, resigning his Senatorship, he was appointed Judge of the United States Circuit Court of the District of Columbia by President Madison, a position he held for thirty-six years and until his death in 1845 at the advanced age of eighty-two years. Henry Clay entered the United States Senate for the first time by appointment to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Judge Thruston. Among the Judge's associates on the bench of the District Court at Washington was Judge Cranch, one of the most learned Judges of his day.

Buckner Thruston's two brothers, John and Charles Mynn Thruston, of Virginia, were men of force and of high personal character. They settled

*See an interesting account of the attack in "Burnet's Northwest Territory," page 84.

in Kentucky at an early date and were among the noted pioneers and founders of the city of Louisville.

Charles Mynn married Frances, the sister of General George Rogers Clark, and of General Wm. Clark, of "Lewis and Clark" fame. John was an Ensign under George Rogers Clark in his famous campaign against the British at Kaskaskia and Vincennes, a campaign during the American Revolution that probably saved to the colonies the splendid territory between the Ohio River and the Great Lakes.*

As shown by the old Thruston record book, Judge Thruston and his wife, Jeanette January Thruston, had a number of children.† (See addenda, page 63).

Their eldest son, Charles Mynn, was educated at West Point and assigned to the artillery. In the Florida war against the Seminole Indians he was acting Adjutant General of the army under General Winfield Scott. In 1836, being quite independent in fortune, he retired from the army and settled in Cumberland, Maryland. At the beginning of the Civil War he announced his firm loyalty to the cause of the Union; and thru the influence of his old commander, General Scott, he was commissioned Brigadier-General of Volunteers, but he was well advanced in years, and tho of great service to the government he did not take a very active part in the war.

*See conquest of the Northwest, English, Vol. 11, pages 961-962. See also Roosevelt's "Winning of the West."

The descendants of these two brothers, John and Charles Mynn Thruston, our Louisville and St. Louis cousins, the Thrustons, Ballards, Januarys, Popes, Thayers, Johnsons, and others, are among the most valued and prominent people of these cities. Some of our Thruston cousins also reside at Owensboro, Ky.

†Our grandmother, Jeanette, was the daughter of Peter January, of Maysville, Ky. He was of Huguenot descent. His ancestors, the Janviers, or Januarys, settled in Delaware in early colonial days.

I have a most grateful recollection of the old General, my "Uncle Charles," and of his very interesting and hospitable family of cousins at Cumberland.

He was devoted to the memory of our father, his brother Robert. He loved to talk about him and of his admiration for him, and this was a magnetic bond of affection between us. Our aunt Jeanette Thruston married her second cousin, Leven M. Powell, of Winchester, Virginia, a commander in the navy, who later rose to the rank of Rear Admiral. He commanded one of Admiral Farragut's war ships at the battle of Mobile Bay. The old Admiral and Aunt Jeanette were great favorites in Washington society. I love to recall the many happy days I passed in their cheery hospitable home and their devotion to me and my brother and sisters.*

Fortunately for me the greater portion of Judge Thruston's interesting and varied correspondence fell into my hands.

While visiting our Aunt Jeanette in Washington before the civil war, she suggested that I might find something of interest in his old papers packed away in a trunk in an attic room. I was soon at work there and it was nearing midnight before I left that dusty old trunk. A veritable epistolary bonanza I found there; material enough, indeed, to give the

*Admiral Powell was a grandson of Colonel Charles Mynn Thruston by his second wife, Sarah Alexander. In his will he bequeathed to me the fine original portrait of Washington, painted by Charles Wilson Peale. It was purchased by Judge Thruston in 1832 from Martha Washington's granddaughter, Miss Peter. The Powell heirs endeavored to break the will, but the executors found that both the Admiral and his wife had signed the statement on the back of the portrait that it belonged to me, and they sent it to me without waiting for the result of the litigation, which lasted some years. See Johnson's Portraits of Washington, page 15.

autograph fever to a youngster fond of books and with a taste for things antiquarian. Unhappily I was too young and too ignorant to properly appreciate the store of manuscripts and documents, but contented myself with searching mainly for letters from men whom I happened to know were prominent in public life.

Letters from Henry Clay, John J. Crittenden and other Kentuckians were most numerous, but there were letters from Albert Gallatin, Edward Livingston, Lawrence and Bushrod Washington, Madison, General Henry Lee, Frances Scott Key, Daniel Webster, and other and lesser lights of social and public life at Washington and elsewhere. There was an interesting four-page letter from President John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State, to our uncle Thomas Thruston, Librarian of the State Department, giving him instructions for arranging and conducting its Library. There was a written agreement signed in 1835 by Frances Scott Key, author of the "Star Spangled Banner," for the purchase of a negro slave. The agreement began as follows:

"Whereas, Judge Thruston and myself have agreed to purchase a slave named Stephen Clark, from his master, Samuel Hamilton, of Maryland, for the price of \$600.00 for the purpose of enabling said slave to obtain his freedom, by paying up the purchase money and interest, as he shall be able to do, by his earnings from time to time, etc."

Worthy and capable slaves were frequently purchased in those days by their white friends to enable them to obtain their freedom by their labor.*

*These old letters and papers will be found in my portfolios of autographs and manuscripts, along with a series of later collections of historical and autographic interest.

PLATE XII.



MARIANNA LOWE, Our Dear Mother.

From her portrait by Charles Soule.

ROBERT ALEXANDER THRUSTON.

Our father, Robert Alexander Thruston, was born in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1806, and received the greater part of his education at the College of Georgetown, District of Columbia.*

I know comparatively little of his early life, as he died in his young manhood when I was but a child of four years. After completing his education as a lawyer he left the family home at Washington in 1830 to seek his fortune in the great west. He finally selected Dayton, Ohio, as his future home, and began the practice of his profession. There he met our mother, Marianna Phillips, daughter of Horatio Gates Phillips, of that city, and in September, 1832, they were married.

I find that I have been writing mainly of the fathers of our family, but I feel that I would be recreant to every sense of love and duty if I failed to record with deepest affection the noble character of our mother,—our dear, bright, loving, self-sacrificing mother, Marianna, to whom her children owe a debt of gratitude beyond expression in words. She was the light of our happy home, and thru a life of over four score years she brought the sunshine of loving service and helpfulness into the devoted circle of her family and friends. All honor to her memory evermore.

There must have been some charm of personality and manner about our father Robert that drew many friends to him, as his old associates have always spoken of him in terms of admiration and affection. He was raised amid the refining influences and associations of Judge Thruston's home near the National

*From an old diary of Judge Thruston's, recently discovered, I learn that his son Robert entered the College of Georgetown September 18th, 1816, and was educated there.

Capitol in the cultivated social circle of early Washington. His brother Charles, as stated, was a graduate of West Point and Captain of Artillery in the regular army; his brother Thomas was Librarian of the State Department; his sister Jeanette was the wife of a prominent officer in the navy; his sister Sidney married the Hon. Wm. A. Bradley, Mayor of Washington, and for years its postmaster. His first cousin, Charles M. Conrad, married Miss Lewis, grand niece of President Washington.* Few young men had such opportunities for social culture. It is not surprising that when this bright and accomplished young lawyer came to Dayton, a quiet town in the western wilds, he should have become a favorite in society and at the bar.

Our mother, Marianna, was then at Miss Emma Willard's noted female seminary in Troy, New York. Her married sister, Elizabeth, in one of her letters wrote to her of this new comer in the most complimentary terms. "Marianna," she wrote, "he is the most charming young gentleman I ever met; you will be certain to fall in love with him. You can't help it."

And sure enough the prediction came true. Upon her return from school they became devoted friends and later devoted lovers. They soon found, however, that their fond hopes of the future were clouded. It was the old sad story. Our grandfather Phillips was a strong and rugged character, with an iron will. He had set his heart upon other suitors for the hand of his loved young daughter. She was but eighteen years old, the only child and stay of his home. Her dear mother, Eliza, had gone to her reward. The young lawyer was without fortune and as yet without much legal practice. Future expectations, accom-

*Mr. Conrad was Secretary of War in President Pearce's cabinet.

plishments, literary attainments, the gift of oratory and prominent family connections did not appeal to the old gentleman. Friends and relatives pleaded with him in vain; he was still obdurate. He had accumulated a large fortune, mainly by his own sagacity and exertions, and he feared it might be dissipated by the next generation. His only son, to whom he was devoted, was inclined to be somewhat extravagant, and although charming and capable, had not been a success in business; his son-in-law, Mr. Worthington, was not a money maker. Grandfather was in the main the banker for both, and he determined that he would not trust his young daughter to this accomplished, untried, comparative stranger from the east.

It seems a hard and cruel view of life, and surely a sad mistake on the part of our grandfather that he failed to appreciate the noble and lovable character of our father, to whom all his associates in Dayton were so devoted, but the memory of the unrelenting old gentleman is too dear to us all to judge him harshly.

He determined to take his loved daughter from home, to school, to the East, to Europe, indeed anywhere to try to alienate her affection from her lover, or to let it grow cold, but it was a vain purpose. The very threat was appalling, and as usual in such cases love triumphed; the father's protest was unavailing and they were married at the home of a near relative.

Unhappily, months and even years passed by before they were forgiven. Our father continued the practice of his profession with increasing success and soon became one of the younger leaders of the Dayton bar, but he had a sensitive nature, and it must have been a constant trial to him, if we may judge from his letters, that he was unable to provide

his dear young wife with the luxuries of her old home, which she had given up for him.

He was soon induced to enter political life and was nominated for the Ohio Legislature by the Whigs of his district over his friend and opponent, Robt. C. Schenck. Both were ambitious and rising young men at that time, and his success was a marked tribute to his ability, as Mr. Schenck was one of the ablest of the young men of his State, and later became a political leader and statesman of national reputation. The young member of the Ohio Legislature from Dayton soon attained distinction as the leader of his party in the House and as a speaker of force and eloquence.

Years ago I was making some New Year calls with a party of friends in Washington. Among others we called upon the Hon. R. W. Thompson, of Indiana, Secretary of the Navy. Upon being introduced to him he pronounced my name quite clearly and remarked, "Thruston, Thruston, perhaps you may be the son of my old time friend, Robert A. Thruston, of Ohio." "Yes, I am," I replied, whereupon the kind old Secretary was most hearty in his greeting, and said he was in the Legislature of Ohio with my father and greatly admired him, stating among other kind expressions that "Robert Thruston was by far the most talented member and most gifted speaker in the assembly," a compliment I more than appreciated. In the "Early History of Dayton, Ohio," and of "Bench and Bar" of that city, the Hon. Robert C. Schenck states that "Robert A. Thruston was the most strikingly brilliant and fluent speaker at the Dayton bar. He was varied in accomplishments, a fine *belles lettres* scholar with high social knowledge, with a command of language, polished diction and glowing manners, which raised him to the quality of an orator in a superior sense. He was besides a charming gentleman personally."

Some years after our father's death our good faithful mother married Col. John Gilbert Lowe, an able lawyer of Dayton, and a refined and educated gentleman of the highest personal character. He was a graduate of Miami University, Ohio, and was Colonel of the "Hundred days regiment" from Dayton in the civil war. He was by nature just and considerate in all our family relations, and I remember him with the greatest affection.

Owing to pressure of duties I feel that I must confine this sketch to the ancestry of the family, and deny myself the pleasure of entering upon the story of the present generation and of my dear brothers and sisters, and refer my two sons to the interesting family reminiscences I am expecting my dear sister Eliza Thruston Houk to prepare for publication.

My sons will, I trust, personally know our kindred of the present generation, but may never have the time or opportunity to trace the family history through the generations past.

The Phillips Ancestry

INCLUDING RECORDS OF THE DICKINSON AND HOUSTON FAMILIES.

The lineage of our branch of the large Phillips family is an interesting study in genealogy. It is marked by a line of men of high ideals and character, some of them prominent in the intellectual life of their generation.

Our ancestor, the Rev. Jonathan Dickinson (born 1688, died 1747), one of the most noted ministers of his day, must be credited with the double honor of graduating in the first class at Yale College in 1706, and of founding and becoming the first President of Princeton College in 1746.

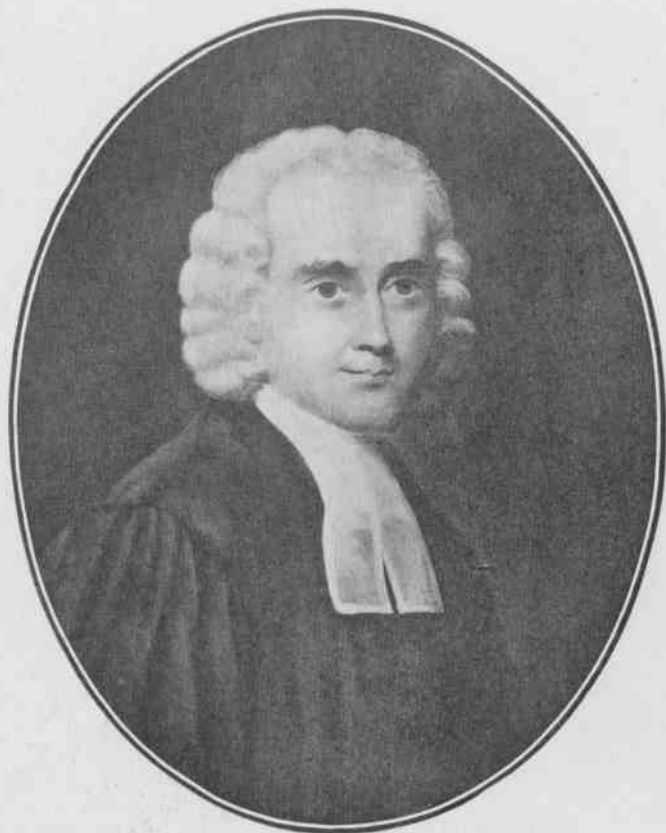
Hon. William Churchill Houston, another ancestor, was a delegate from New Jersey to the convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. He was an officer in the Revolutionary War and a member of the Continental Congress for several terms.

Captain Jonathan Phillips, our great grandfather, served with distinction in General Arnold's campaign against Quebec and throughout the war of the Revolution.

The family of our mother, Marianna Phillips, was mainly of English descent. Its first representative in America was the Rev. George Phillips, son of Christopher Phillips, of Lainham, Norfolk County, England.

George Phillips was born there A. D. 1593, graduated at Cambridge, A. D. 1613, became a clergyman and settled in Boxford County, Essex. He

PLATE IX.



REV. JONATHAN DICKINSON, First President of Princeton College.

From his portrait in Dickinson Hall, Princeton, N. J.



later joined the "Puritans," and with his wife and three children came to America with Gov. Winthrop in 1630 and settled in Watertown, Massachusetts.

His son, Samuel Phillips, was also a minister of the gospel and had a charge at Rowley, Massachusetts. The name of Theophilus Phillips, son of Samuel, first appears in 1676 at New Town, Massachusetts, and it seems from the record that he was a prominent and useful citizen. Theophilus had three sons, William, who settled in New York, and Philip and Theophilus, Jr., who removed to Maidenhead, New Jersey, now Lawrenceville,—as early as 1698, as their names appeared in the list of grantors of a tract of land to a church at that date. Philip Phillips was commissioned Captain in a regiment of Hunterdown County in 1722, and Major in 1727 in the same command, and was doubtless a man of character and influence. He died about the year 1740. His son was the father of our great grandfather, Jonathan Phillips.

The foregoing genealogical record of the Phillips ancestry, tho brief and meager in outline, we are well assured is an authentic account of the early family history. When we reach the record of Jonathan Phillips we are on solid grounds, as we have ample documentary information as to the details of his life and character.*

*The Gore Roll of arms, Vol. 2, page 12, of America Heraldica, published and edited by Count Edi V. Vermont, Temple Court, New York City, gives the arms of Samuel Phillips, of Boston, grandson of the Rev. George Phillips. Arms Argent, Lion Rampart, Sable, Collared, and chained Gules Crest a lion as in arms. Motto, *Ducit amor patriæ*. See arms and motto in the Book Plate of our Cousin Duncan Clinch Phillips, Plate XVI. He is a member of the Pittsburg branch of our Phillips family and resides in Washington, D. C.

CAPTAIN JONATHAN PHILLIPS.

was born December 16th, 1744, at Maidenhead, now Lawrenceville, New Jersey, the seat of the well-known Princeton Preparatory School of that State. Our relatives were connected with the school and its management at a very early date.

Captain Phillips served as an officer under General Arnold in his daring expedition against the French in Canada. When the war of the American Revolution began he recruited a company, was elected its Captain and marched with the New Jersey forces to aid General Washington's army at Boston. He and his company of the second New Jersey regiment, were with General Horatio Gates at the battle and victory at Saratoga, New York, and in honor of that then distinguished General, he named his son, born soon afterwards, Horatio Gates Phillips, a name that has followed on down the family line.

Captain Phillips was at the battle of Monmouth. He attended the trial of that accomplished but unfortunate British officer, Major Andre, witnessing his execution, and was present with his command at the final surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Our grandfather, Horatio Gates Phillips, presented to me his fine old mahogany secretary, and I found in it three of his father's "General Order" books, kept by him as an officer of his regiment during the Revolution. The first entry in the order book of 1779 was the following brigade order announcing General Anthony Wayne's victory at Stony Point.:

"HEADQUARTERS, WYOMING, July 25th, 1779.

"The general congratulates the army upon the glorious and important intelligence just received from his excellency, General Washington's Head-

quarters, as follows: Headquarters, New Windsor, 16th July, 1779.

"Permit me to congratulate you upon the success of our arms in this quarter, of a most glorious and interesting nature.

"Brigade General Wayne, with a part of the light infantry, surprised and took prisoners the whole garrison of Stony Point last night with all the cannon, stores, mortars, howitzers, tents, baggage, etc., without the loss of more than four killed, etc."

These old general order books contain many military orders and details of historical interest.*

Captain Phillips seems to have kept various accounts on the blank pages of his army order book, perhaps entered after the war. I find a list of "things necessary for housekeeping, etc.," evidently part of his wedding outfit for his second marriage, with their cost stated, as follows (the pounds and shillings I have reduced to dollars and cents):

"One breakfast table, new	4 L	— \$	19.40
One dining table, new	3 L	—	14.55
One set of hand irons, tongs & shovel....	4.15	—	22.45
One set smoothing irons12	—	2.88
½ doz. silver tea spoons	1.17	—	8.80
½ doz. silver table spoons	7.10	—	36.40
2 china bowls, 2 and 3 pints.....	1.17	—	8.80
1 castor	1.17	—	8.80
One riding chase	37.10	—	183.00
2 new milk cows	16	—	77.60
1 feather bed	25	—	121.30
One hat, great coat and one pr. boots...	15.10	—	75.15

The half dozen silver table spoons named in the list are doubtless the spoons marked "M. P." (his wife Mary Phillips' initials) that came down to me in the distribution of our mother's family silver.

*Two of these order books will be found in my library. I presented the third one to our cousin, Horace Phillips, for the Phillips line.

They are engraved with the year of the wedding, "1782."

I find also in the same old order book Captain Phillips' account in 1782 as Treasurer of the "Meeting House" at Maidenhead, now doubtless the Presbyterian church at Lawrenceville, New Jersey; also in the same book a memorandum of the hundreds of wagon loads of apples that were purchased and brought to his "apple Jack distillery."

Captain Phillips was a member of the "Society of the Cincinnati," of which General Washington was President, an honor that descended to our grandfather, Horatio Gates Phillips, his only son, and still belongs to the eldest son of the Phillips line. Capt. Phillips' two brothers also served in the war of the Revolution.

After peace was concluded he returned to his inherited farm in New Jersey, thankful for the quiet and repose of the old home, having had seven years of continuous service in the army. He soon afterwards married Miss Mary Foreman, the mother of our grandfather, Horatio Gates Phillips. Captain Phillips' second wife was Elizabeth Smith, the granddaughter of Jonathan Dickinson, the first President of Princeton College, New Jersey. In the memoirs of George S. Houston,* nephew of Capt. Phillips' wife, Elizabeth, he gives an interesting account of his uncle Jonathan's services in the war and of his home life at Lawrenceville. He says his uncle "was kind, friendly, benevolent, hospitable and esteemed by all his acquaintances. Contented with his little farm, he appeared in no way anxious to aggrandize wealth, having sufficient to live comfortable; he did not appear anxious for the luxuries of life. He often entertained us in the evenings with the stories

*George S. Houston was the grandfather of our much esteemed cousins, the Estes and Houstons, of Philadelphia.

of the war. The good old man related to us the circumstances of the battle of Trenton, the place where I was then going to school. The British, I think, were in the town, our army across the creek on the hill. The cannon balls were fired in upon the British and Hessians; for some time the battle was desperate, but our people proved victorious and about 900 Hessians were slain or captured. One of the officers and horses fell from the bridge and were killed. The Hessians, who were Dutchmen, hired by the British from the Prince of Hesse Cassel, retreated, and at this juncture my uncle, who knew the country, was sent over the creek and through the woods to stop them and make prisoners of them. He had about 100 men with him and succeeded, and they gave up on finding their retreat checked, crying out, "Don't kill me, good rebel man," a term they had learned from the British."*

"When Mayor Andre was hung my uncle was present, and says the officers all shed tears. He was at his trial, and had taken a flag with some communication into the British camp, that lay at no great distance. The ceremony on the occasion he described to us. He approached the camp of the British with the white flag; the sentinel hailed him; he stated his errand and was blindfolded and led to the General's tent, where the bandage was taken from his eyes, and he delivered his communication, received his answer, and was in the same manner reconducted out of the camp."

Mr. Houston states that "more than twenty years have passed, but my uncle Jonathan is still dear to

*It is a singular coincidence that three of our great grandfathers were at the battle of Trenton, Capt. Phillips, Capt. W. C. Houston and Capt. Charles Mynn Thruston, of Virginia, and all at that time of the same rank. The latter had his arm shattered by a rifle ball and came near losing it.

me and I yet remember the days spent in his house, his death and funeral."

HORATIO GATES PHILLIPS,

Son of Captain Jonathan Phillips, was born December 21st, 1783, and was doubtless educated at the historic old school at Lawrenceville. The entries in his little diary made when he was but twenty years old, indicate that he must have had at least an excellent primary education. He was observant and thoughtful, and if we may judge from his early career, or his later personality, he was a young man of decided and promising traits of character. He entered in his note book the familiar couplet,

"Whoever by the plough would thrive,
Himself must either hold or drive."

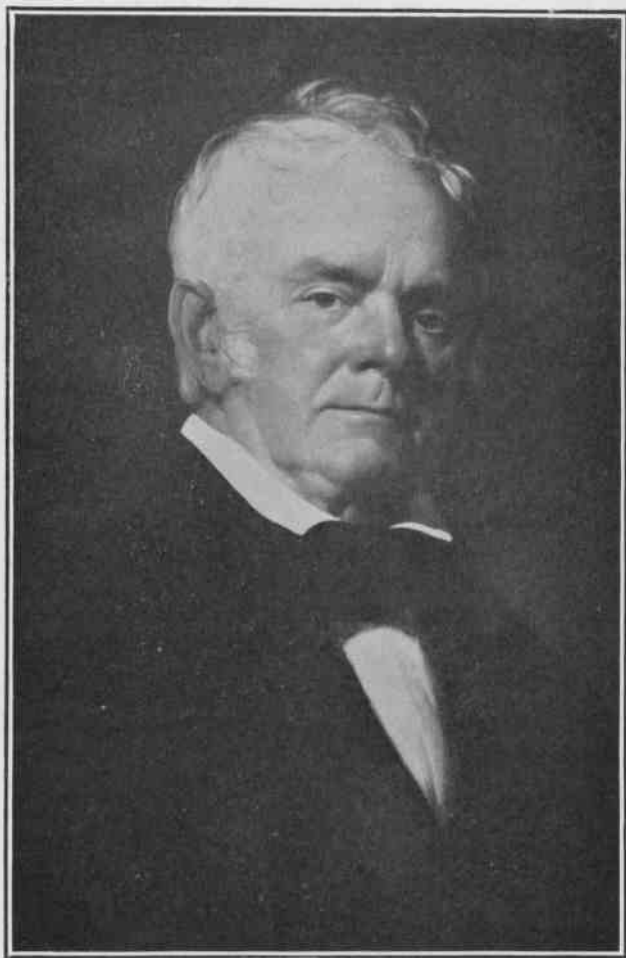
—a rule that he followed through life.

The young farmer soon grew restless and weary of the dull routine of the old home and farm life, and determined to know something more of the outer world and of the great west, then attracting the attention of many of the active and ambitious young men of the older seaboard States. In the spring of 1804 he started upon a tour of exploration to the far western country.

His father's military land warrant, granted for service in the Revolutionary war, was located in the Miami valley, near the new town of Cincinnati, Ohio, and this led him to visit that section. Concluding to prospect further the young pioneer journeyed in a barge down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to Natchez and New Orleans, keeping an interesting little diary of his travels, a portion of which I found in his old secretary.

Purchasing a horse he returned somewhat leisurely to the north, thru the wilds of Louisiana, Mis-

PLATE X.



HORATIO GATES PHILLIPS.

From his portrait by J. O. Eaton.

issippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. He had a friend residing in a new town near Natchez and spent his 21st birthday there, December 21, 1804. His diary tells of a ball he attended and other incidents of his visit there. Having arrived at his majority, he received while there a draft on the east from his guardian in New Jersey for 160 pounds sterling (nearly \$800).

As he visited Natchez, he doubtless traveled to the north on the "old Natchez trace," and probably tarried for a time in the town of Nashville, but the portion of his journal relating to Tennessee has been unfortunately lost.

On his return to Ohio he wrote to his family in New Jersey that the Miami valley was the most fertile and attractive section he had discovered in his travels thru the west, and he finally selected the New Jersey and Kentucky settlement at Dayton as his future home. Time has amply vindicated the judgment of the level headed young pioneer, as no section of this great country has been more blessed by nature than the beautiful valley of the Miami River in southern Ohio, and Dayton is in the center of it.

Returning to New Jersey he settled his affairs, sold his inherited farm and other property there, and soon after married Miss Eliza Houston, the dear young lady to whom he had been long engaged, and made preparations for the far journey to their new home in the west.

And now I must pass to the maternal line, and tell something of the character and ancestry of our grandmother, Eliza Houston Phillips. She was the niece of Captain Phillips' second wife, and this relationship led to the intimacy that finally resulted in their engagement. The young lovers grew up together and became devotedly attached to each other,

a devotion that lasted through all the years of their married life.

Gentle by nature, cultivated, sincere, benevolent, our dear grandmother Eliza was noted for her charities and good works in the early life and history of Dayton, and during my youth her memory was often recalled by her old friends in terms of affection and praise.

REV. JONATHAN DICKINSON.

Eliza Houston was the great granddaughter of the Rev. Jonathan Dickinson, a Presbyterian minister of national reputation in his day, who graduated in the first class at Yale College in 1706, and founded and became the first President of Princeton College, New Jersey, in 1746.*

The eminent divines, Jonathan Edwards, Aaron Burr and John Witherspoon, were his successors in the presidency of this time honored institution of learning. Dickinson Hall, one of the fine buildings at Princeton College, is named after the first President, and his excellent oil portrait hangs upon its walls.

Jonathan Dickinson was born in Hadley, Mass., in 1688. His ancestors were among the first colonists in that State, doubtless English Puritans.

He was educated for the ministry and was an Independent or Presbyterian. He preached for nearly forty years in Elizabethtown, New Jersey, the original seat of Princeton College. He was the

*President Dickinson's daughter Martha married Rev. Caleb Smith, of Orange, N. J. Hon. W. C. Houston married their daughter Jane, the mother of our grandmother, Eliza Houston. See History of Elizabeth, New Jersey, published by Carlton & Lanahan, page 354.

PLATE XI.



ELIZA HOUSTON PHILLIPS.

From her portrait by Harding.

author of a number of important religious works published in Boston and in Scotland and England. Several of his publications will be found in my library. In the well written history of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, twenty-eight pages are devoted to the life and works of President Dickinson.*

He was evidently a man of marked intellectual ability and was most eloquent in the pulpit. President Edwards, his successor, called him "the late learned and very excellent Mr. Jonathan Dickinson." The Rev. Dr. Bellamy called him "The great Mr. Dickinson." The Rev. Dr. John Erskine, of Edinburgh, said: "The British Isles have produced no such writers on divinity in the 18th century as Dickinson and Edwards." The New York and Boston papers of 1747 contained the following notice of his death:

"Elizabethtown, New Jersey, Oct. 10th, 1747.

On Wednesday morning last, about 4 o'clock, died here of pleuritic illness that eminently learned faithful and pious minister of the gospel and President of the College of New Jersey, Rev. Jonathan Dickinson, in the 60th year of his age, who had been pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of this town for nearly 40 years, and was the joy and glory of it. In him conspicuously appeared those natural and acquired moral and spiritual endowments which constitute a truly excellent and valuable man, a good scholar, an eminent divine and a serious devout Christian."

President Dickinson married Joanna Melyen, the granddaughter of Peter Melyen, a prominent citizen of New Amsterdam (New York). He was an original grantee of land in America, who came from Holland to America in 1639, and thru his grand daughter

*Published by Carlton & Lanahan, 1868.

brought into our family stock the Dutch, or Knickerbocker Element.*

WILLIAM CHURCHILL HOUSTON,

the father of our grandmother, Eliza Phillips, was also a man of marked character and distinction. His biography by Thomas Allen Glenn, fortunately gives us an interesting history of his life and public services. He was born in the Sumpter District of South Carolina about the year 1747, but his father, Archibald Houston, a planter of education and wealth, soon removed to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and it was in this historic county that Wm. Churchill Houston passed his youth.†

The biographer states that "the family from which these Houstons sprung was of Scotch ancestry and bore a name long distinguished in the annals of the Lowlands of that country for learning, patriotism and valor, and like a majority of their fellow countrymen, its members were stern and uncompromising adherents of the Presbyterian Church."‡

Young Houston evidently had the ambition, earnestness and thirst for learning characteristic to his race. He received his early education at one of the excellent Presbyterian schools of North Carolina,

*The name of Peter Melyen, the Dutch "Patroon," is well known in early American History. His son, Capt. Jacob Melyen, the father of Mrs. Dickinson, was Treasurer of the Province of New Jersey and was a noted officer in the colonial wars against the Indians in 1673. See *History of Elizabeth*, pages 82-174-185-327, Carlton & Lanahan, 1868.

†See Glenn's *Life of Houston*, published at Morristown, Pa., 1903. Page 2.

‡The author of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was Dr. Ephram Brevard, Mr. Houston's classmate at Princeton College. Capt. Jack, who married Mr. Houston's sister Margaret, was the messenger who carried the Mecklenburg Declaration to the Continental Congress, then in session at Philadelphia.

probably at the preparatory school presided over by that thorough teacher, James Alexander, a graduate of Princeton, but his ambition was not satisfied with a country school education, and he determined to enter Princeton College.

It is said that a stout horse and fifty pounds sterling were the entire fortune the young stripling carried with him from his father's home, but he must have had a self-reliant spirit and a brave heart to aid him in this ambitious purpose.

An almost unbroken wilderness stretched out before the young traveler as he began his long journey. Lawless Indians were encamped along or near his pathway; broad rivers had to be crossed, but he did not hesitate. Every obstacle was successfully surmounted and he safely reached the goal of his ambition at Princeton. He evidently had received a thorough primary education at his school in North Carolina, as his credentials enabled him to enter the Freshman Class, and President Finley at once appointed him a teacher in the grammar school, a position he retained until 1768, when he graduated with the highest honors of the College. He was also President of his class and was appointed senior tutor of the College.

In 1771 he became the first Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Princeton College, this new department and professorship in the young College having been created for him by the Board of Trustees. It seems also that the young professor was given an elaborate and expensive banquet in honor of his promotion, and, strange to say, the original receipt showing the items of the expense account is still preserved in the library at Princeton and reads as follows (I have reduced the pounds, shillings and pence to a modern money basis):

"The trustees of New Jersey College, Dr.
To Wm. Hicks.

1771 Sept. 27.

(L. S. D.)

To 37 dinners.....	4.12.6	\$22.55
To 23 bottles of wine at 5s.....	5.15	24.40
To 8 bottles of porter.....	.16	3.80
To 6 bottles of beer.....	9.	1.70
To 3 double bowls of punch.....	9.	1.70
To 3 double bowls of toddy.....	6.	1.44
To tea for 13 gentlemen.....	13.	3.12
	<hr/>	
	13.6.6	\$64.61

The bill is approved and receipted on its face in these words:

"The above amount I believe to be just,

JOHN WITHERSPOON."

"Princeton, 12 Dec., 1771, received of Mr. Seargent the above sum of thirteen pounds and six pence money by me.

WILLIAM HICKS."*

Evidently it was a pretty lively banquet for the supposed to be stiff-necked and straight-laced Presbyterians of that day, yet it seems to have had at least the implied approval of that grand old Scotch President, John Witherspoon, of Revolutionary fame.

If we may judge from the menu and expense account, it must have rivaled a modern Delmonico banquet. After all, our Presbyterian forefathers do not seem to have been so stern and somber as we have been led to believe. How such a banquet bill would shock the nerves of a Tennessee Prohibitionist!

In 1776, while still on duty at Princeton, Professor Houston raised a company of infantry and was commissioned its Captain, to assist the forces under General Washington in protecting the State of New

*Glenn's Biography, page 19.

Jersey from the British army. He joined Col. Quick's command and was present with his company at the battle of Trenton.

His patriotic zeal was constantly manifested during the war. At a time when the New Jersey troops were suffering for want of clothing and pay during the recess of the Legislature, Governor Livingston, Robert Morris and Wm. Churchill Houston made themselves personally responsible for the sum of 7,000 pounds sterling (about \$34,000) to purchase clothing for them.*

In 1775 Professor Houston was appointed by the trustees of Princeton College Treasurer of that institution, an office he held for eight years. In 1778 he was elected to the General Assembly of New Jersey, but found time to study law, and was admitted to the bar in 1781. Meantime, March 22, 1777, he was elected "Deputy Secretary" of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, and later a member of that body from New Jersey, succeeding John Witherspoon. He was a member of Congress for five terms, resigning his professorship at Princeton in 1783.

Mr. Houston was one of the three commissioners appointed by Governor Livingston, of New Jersey, to represent that State in the convention of the colonies that met at Annapolis in 1786. This con-

*In a brief sketch of Hon. W. C. Houston, Cooley thus, refers to the incident: "In 1779 the troops of the State in the Continental Army continued to be in a most destitute condition, especially with regard to pay and clothing, and a touching appeal was made by the officers, at the same time setting forth their grievances. During the recess of the Legislature the necessities of the troops became so urgent that three individuals, Governor Livingston, Robert Morris, and William Churchill Houston interposed for their relief and requested the Treasurer of the State to furnish the commissioners of clothing any sum not exceeding 7,000 pounds, to supply clothing for which they would be responsible, if the Legislature would make no appropriation." Glenn, page 63.

vention suggested and made the preliminary arrangements for the convention of 1787, that met at Philadelphia and framed the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. Houston was also one of the delegates appointed by the Legislature of New Jersey to this important convention. He took part in its debates and joined the other New Jersey delegates in the report made to the Governor of that State of the proceedings of the convention, but for some reason not fully determined, probably his temporary illness or absence, his name does not appear in the list of signers of the Federal Constitution, tho' he was fully entitled to rank as one of them. This honorable appointment and duty must be regarded as the crowning event of his brief but useful life.*

*State of New Jersey.

To the Hon. David Brearley, William Churchill Houston, William Patterson and John Nelson, Esquires, greeting:

The council and assembly reposing special trust and confidence in your integrity, prudence and ability have at a joint meeting appointed you the said Hon. David Brearley, William Churchill Houston, William Patterson and John Nelson, Esquires, or any three of you, commissioners to meet such commissioners as have been or may be appointed by the other States in the Union at the city of Philadelphia in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, on the second Monday in May next for the purpose of taking into consideration the state of the Union as to trade, and other important objects and of devising such other provisions as shall appear to be necessary to render the Constitution of the Federal Government adequate to the exigencies thereof.

In testimony whereof the great seal of the State is herewith affixed. Witness, William Livingston, Esq., Governor, Captain General and Commander in Chief in and over the State of New Jersey, and territories belonging thereto. Chancellor and ordinary in the same at Trenton, the 23d day of November, in the year of our Lord 1786, and of our sovereignty and independence the eleventh.

WILLIAM LIVINGSTON.

By his Excellency's command,

BOWER READ, Secretary.

Mr. Glenn states that "upon the termination of his work in the Constitutional Convention Mr. Houston returned to Trenton, where he now resided and resumed his interrupted law practice, and his duties of clerk of the Supreme Court, continuing in these occupations with his usual energy and fidelity until the following spring."

"And now at the age of about forty-two years, before many men have yet arrived at the prime of their life, the work of William Churchill Houston was finished."

"He had been a professor of mathematics and natural philosophy in the College of New Jersey at a very early age, and a few years later had been chosen a member of the Continental Congress, serving several terms. He had fought beside Washington, and

The following is the report of the Commissioners to the Legislature of New Jersey.

"The Commissioners appointed by joint meeting of the Legislature to meet commissioners of the other States of the Union at the city of Philadelphia in the month of May, last, for the purpose of taking into consideration the state of the Union, beg leave to report to this honorable house, that in pursuance of their appointment they met the commissioners of eleven of the other States in union at Philadelphia, and thereupon entered upon the business of their appointment.

That the commissioners so convened did after long and serious deliberation and with no small difficulty, finally agreed upon a plan for the government of the said United States, which, together with the other acts of the convention, were by them transmitted to the honorable, the Congress of the United States. Copies of the same are hereunto annexed.

All of which are by your commissioners most humbly submitted to this honorable House.

Trenton, 25th October, 1787.

WILLIAM LIVINGSTON,
DAVID BREARLEY,
W. C. HOUSTON,
JONA. DAYTON.

A printed copy of the Constitution of the United States was appended to the report.

spoken in debate with Jefferson, Dickinson, Adams, Hancock and Madison. His intimate knowledge of finance had led to his selection as Comptroller of the Treasury, which position, on account of his many other duties, he had been forced to decline.*

In the summer of 1788 his health became impaired from overwork and constant duty, and he resolved to revisit the scenes of his early life and his old home in Mecklenberg County, North Carolina, but unhappily these hopes were never realized; he grew worse upon the way and died near Philadelphia August 12th, 1788.

"In person," says one of his biographers, "Mr. Houston was tall and slender, dignified and graceful, extremely intelligent, grave, serious and uniform. His style of speaking was clear, calm, free from excitement, like a gentle flowing river, without ripple or tumult, and yet by its simplicity, truth and earnestness, seldom failed to produce conviction."

No portrait of him is believed to be extant.†

President Dickinson and William Churchill Houston were beacon lights in our maternal family line. They were men of the highest order of intellect and moral worth, and I have felt justified in giving a full and just impression of their lives and services.

Some years ago I received a printed catalogue of a sale of autograph letters and manuscripts to take place in Philadelphia. In the list was an autograph letter of President Dickinson and a document signed by Mr. Houston. Not having much experience as to the prices of such letters and documents, as a venture, I wrote to Mr. Henkel, the manager of the sale, authorizing him to make a bid of five dollars for me for each number. Not hearing from him after the sale, I made a postal inquiry of him as to

*Glenn, page 87. †Glenn, page 90.

the result, and to my surprise and almost humiliation, I received the following postal reply: "You were away off. Dickinson went for \$75.00 and Houston for \$40.00"—prices more creditable to the memory of our ancestors than to the financial judgment of their descendant.

HORATIO GATES PHILLIPS—Continued.

We must now return to our grandparents, Horatio Gates Phillips and his young bride, Eliza Houston, who were upon the eve of starting for their new home in the far Ohio Valley, as previously stated.

Bidding farewell to kindred and friends in New Jersey, in the spring of 1806 the brave young couple set out upon their bridal journey of three months' duration. What a journey it must have been! On horseback to Pittsburg, with wagons and baggage following, down the broad and winding Ohio River in barges, landing at the little town of Cincinnati, and starting again on horseback up the valley of the Miami River to Dayton. This young town had been laid out in 1795 in the midst of the surrounding forest. Almost the whole newly organized State of Ohio was as yet a wilderness. General Anthony Wayne had only recently conquered the martial spirit of the powerful Indian tribes that occupied that territory, and had beaten them into partial subjection. As late as 1812, when Dayton was made the headquarters of the army of the west, the little town had but 500 inhabitants.

It seems the young couple accepted all the trials and dangers of the journey and of frontier life in the true pioneer spirit. A comfortable residence had been erected for the New Jersey bride at the corner of Main and Second Streets, nearly opposite the present courthouse, a dear old home, that with some changes lasted down to my day. How well I

remember it, and the quaint old furniture, the closets where the cakes, raisins and almonds were kept, the porches, the garden and "every loved spot which my infancy knew." It was the home of our childhood. Our dear mother was born there, and her two older children, my sister Eliza and myself. It occupied a quarter of a square in what is now the center of the city. It had a garden well cared for, and shady arbors and almost an orchard of fruit trees. We loved to play there, especially in the ripe fruit time. It was the favorite resort of the grandchildren of the family until we were almost grown, and tall business houses began to encroach upon it. Later grandfather presented our dear mother with a handsome home on Main Street between 4th and 5th Streets, where the younger members of the family were born. Our brothers, Henry and Houston Lowe, have erected a block of storehouses upon the front of the lot. I never visit Dayton without wishing to slip through the alley way and catch a glimpse of the rear portion of the dear old house, still standing amid the tall skyscrapers and busy surroundings.

When our grandfather Phillips visited the great west in 1804, he readily recognized its important future, with its opportunities for investments and for trading and commerce, and upon his later journey to the west he brought with him from the east a considerable stock of merchandise. He erected a commodious storehouse at the corner of Main and Second Streets in Dayton, and for many years was the leading merchant and banker of that section, having also branch stores in Troy and other towns. He once told me that he and his young wife managed to take to the west, as their united fortune and start in life, the sum of about five thousand dollars, a meager pittance of a sum in these days, but in 1806 a royal fortune in the eyes of the western pioneers with their more simple tastes and frontier ways.

In accordance with the promise of his youth, grandfather Phillips developed into a man of great force of character. Had he been left penniless, his business sagacity, his activity, his sterling integrity would have made him a fortune. For fifty years he was an important factor in the life and progress of the city of Dayton, and indeed of the entire Miami valley. He was one of the main projectors of the Miami Canal, connecting the Ohio River with Lake Erie. I have the original letter from Judge Crane, our member of Congress from Dayton, introducing him to DeWitt Clinton of New York and of Erie Canal fame, whom he visited to consult as to the best methods of canal construction. He was at the head of various enterprises, manufactures, railways, the Dayton Hydraulic Company, and was President of the first banking institution in Ohio, north of Cincinnati.*

When a boy I was often in his counting room back of the Main Street storehouse, and in the large dark money vault connecting. There must have been a ton or more of silver piled up there at times, with some gold. Since I became something of a coin collector, I have often wished that I could have picked out some of the fine rare type of silver and gold coinage from that treasury at that early date. The big key of the vault looked like the key of the Bastille in the Paris Museum.

In those days there were probably no express companies in the west, as I well remember the shipments of silver money, or bullion made by him. The money was sent by wagon in little strong kegs like paint kegs, to the canal boats. On one occasion

*The first company organized in Dayton with banking privileges was the Dayton Manufacturing Company, of which H. G. Phillips was President, and his brother-in-law, Geo. S. Houston, cashier. The name was later changed to the Dayton Bank.

a considerable portion of the deck was covered by these money kegs. Grandfather and one of his clerks traveled on the boat with the treasure, taking me along. At an early day he purchased large tracts of land in Northwest Ohio, and as I remember, organized and laid out two county towns there on the Maumee River, now the important cities of Defiance and Napoleon.

His descendants should never cease to revere the memory of our grandfather Phillips. I have special cause for gratitude. He gave me my name and many mementos of his interest in me; his fine old bull's eye watch with chain and seal that he carried for over forty years, his mahogany secretary and its family records. He was my banker at college. He showed his confidence in me by making me one of his executors soon after I became of age. When I was but ten years old he took me with him to New York City. I rode on my pony to Defiance, in Northern Ohio, along the tow path; thence we journeyed to Toledo, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and Albany, traveling on the Erie Canal before the N. Y. Central Railway was completed. He gave me a pencil and little blank book and required me to enter the names of all the towns and cities we passed, the distances and other observations. He asked me many questions every day to stimulate me into noting every feature of the country we were passing through. Before the war I traveled with him and our grandmother thru the south, spending the entire winter there, at New Orleans, Mobile, Charleston, at Aiken, the famous winter resort of South Carolina, and at Richmond and Washington, a delightful and educating experience for a youngster.

Our dear old grandfather left us an honored and unblemished name, of which any family might well be proud. He was the one good level headed banker

and bread winner of the family, who by industry and thoughtful provision bequeathed his children and grandchildren, each and every one, something of a financial start in life, a competence, if not a fortune; surely an ancestor well worthy of our lasting affection and gratitude. It has always been a sorrow to me that he did not have a more just and kind appreciation of the noble and lovable traits of character of our dear father Robert, and I think in after years he more than regretted the unhappiness he had caused by his strenuous opposition to our dear mother's marriage to him.

And now a few more words regarding grandfather's devoted wife, Eliza Houston Phillips. He was a busy man of affairs, and looked rather to the practical side of life, while she was full of the Christian graces of the spirit. She loved her church, the old First Presbyterian Church, that with its successors stood on the corner of Ludlow and Second Streets, the church home of the family for a hundred years and more. What a world of sweet memories circle around that dear old church! Its latest successor, in graceful Gothic proportions, still stands upon the old site.

She loved to visit the poor, to administer to their needs, and to aid in every charity. Something of her sweet nature, her love of righteousness, and of things spiritual must have descended to her children as a blessed inheritance. They surely left their impress upon the life of our dear mother.

Our grandparents were blessed with three children, Jonathan Dickinson, Elizabeth, and our mother, Marianna. Our uncle Dickinson I shall always remember with affection. He had a charm of manner and a generous heart that made him a universal favorite. His beautiful and hospitable home was a center of attraction in the social life of Dayton, and

still stands on the old corner, a landmark always interesting to me. My sisters and brothers and I had almost as much pleasure there, with our lovely cousins as in our own home. Uncle Dickinson was educated at Princeton College and was one of Dayton's most public spirited and useful citizens.

Our grandfather desired that his two daughters, tho' born and raised in part among western surroundings, should have the refinement and accomplishments that an eastern education could give them. Elizabeth grew up to be tall, graceful and attractive. She must have been indeed a very decided beauty in her young womanhood, if we may judge from her beautiful portraits from the family traditions and from the refined face of her later years, as I remember it. She was educated, I think, in Philadelphia, among our kindred in the east.

She had many suitors, and finally married John G. Worthington, Esq., an accomplished lawyer, the United States District Attorney at Cincinnati.*

Our mother, Marianna, was sent to Dr. Locke's high class seminary at Cincinnati when but a child, and remained there for a number of years. The school was in that quaint picturesque old building on Pike Street, nearly opposite 4th Street, and was later the home of Nicholas Longworth, probably the first millionaire in Ohio. To complete her education, grandfather traveled in a carriage with her the long journey to Troy, New York, where he placed her in Miss Emma Willard's Seminary for young ladies, then the most famous young ladies' school of its day.

The illness and death of our grandmother Eliza ended mother's school days at the early age of seventeen years, and she returned to Dayton to take charge

*Her descendants, our dear Worthington cousins, reside in Washington, D. C., and our Philip cousins in the old home on the Hudson River.

PLATE XIII.



AUNT ELIZABETH WORTHINGTON.

From her portrait by Harding.

of her father's home, Elizabeth having been married and residing in Cincinnati. Then came her marriage to our dear father, Robert Alexander Thruston. The story has already been told in part in the Thruston record.

I would love to picture the old home on Main Street in Dayton and to tell of the years of happiness in the devoted family circle there and something of my good and accomplished sister Eliza, of the charm and beauty of Jeanette, so well known and loved in her day, and of my interesting and most lovable brother Dickinson,* and of our other dear brothers and sisters, the children of our just and devoted step-father, Colonel Lowe. It was a home where love and kindness reigned supreme. But as this sketch, written for my two sons, relates only to the ancestry of the family, I feel that I have not the leisure to enter into the more interesting and widening story of the present generation, a story that I trust my dear sister Eliza (Mrs. Houk) will complete in her promised memoirs.

CLOSING REFLECTIONS.

These briefly outlined sketches and memoirs of the Thruston-Phillips families and their kindred, will I trust, give my sons a just impression of the characteristics of our self-respecting, duty-loving ancestors. It will tell them that they "kept the faith." They were not of royal blood, but many of them were types of royal manhood, and had the kingship of character and noble purpose. It is said that a child is born of all its ancestors, and I trust the record will be an inspiration to my sons and their descendants that will help them to maintain

*A graduate with high honors of Miami University, Ohio, a gallant soldier in the civil war with the rank of Captain.

the useful and honorable standards of life and duty illustrated in the family traditions and history.

It will be noted that our inheritance is of composite origin, representing the blood of England, Scotland, Holland and France, a lineage not to be ashamed of. The English Thrustons were royalists and churchmen to the core. Bristol and Gloucestershire, their English homes were the strongholds of the adherents of King Charles as against Cromwell, and they brought their traditions and religious convictions with them across the Atlantic to their new homes in the Virginia wilderness.

The Phillips and Dickinson family lines represent the unadulterated English Puritan stock of earliest New England, that came down along with the dissenters and Presbyterianism through Massachusetts, Yale, Princeton and Calvinism; and is still a sturdy element in the religious life of the family, thus giving us a full share of the blood of both Cavalier and Covenanter.

The Houstons, of South Carolina, were Scotch, the uncompromising Scotch of the Lowlands. The Januarys, or Janviers, of Delaware, were French Huguenots, who held fast to their faith and fled from persecution to America.

I have always regretted that we could not find in our pedigree a trace of old Ireland, with its wit and generous cheeriness. I have twice visited that beautiful island and have learned to have the highest respect and regard for a high bred Irish gentleman, but I did the best I could to make up for this lack of the Hibernian element, by marrying the accomplished daughter of a fine old Scotch Irish gentleman, Mr. James M. Hamilton, and I trust that something of this good half-Irish strain will show itself in the next generation.

PLATE XIV.



Book Plate of R. C. Ballard Thruston, descendant of Charles
Myan Thruston of Kentucky.

These various elements of the blood of Europe, combined in the family stock, illustrate the gradual transition from the several foreign elements into the distinctive composite type we call American. Upon an examination of the record, it will be found that few families are so purely American in blood and few can date back to so early a period in American Colonial history, without admixture of later foreign elements. The ancestors of every branch, I think, arrived in America more than two centuries ago. The Thrustons came to Virginia between the years 1642 and 1666. The Phillips line came across the Atlantic with Gov. Winthrop in 1630, ten years after the landing of the Mayflower. The Dickinsons reached New England as early as 1630 to 1635. Our ancestor, Peter Melven, came from Holland to New Amsterdam (New York) in 1636. The Houstons came to South Carolina and the Januarys to Delaware a generation or two prior to the Revolution. Their descendants, as the record shows, are entitled to membership in the Colonial and Revolutionary Societies, through these several lines of descent.

It will be noted also that our ancestors belonged to a race of pioneer freemen, who had the heart and courage to leave the lands of kings and princes in Europe to help build up a new civilization and lay the foundations of liberty in the new continent across the Atlantic. In later generations they were also pioneers from the Atlantic coast States, who helped to blaze the way over the Alleghenies into the wilderness of the west and lay the foundations of the States of Kentucky, Ohio and Louisiana. We were fortunate, also, in that they came from States both north and south. Indeed, more than half of the thirteen colonies of America contributed to our inheritance. This should tend to liberalise and broaden our views and opinions and free us from radicalism, and prejudice.

The sturdy English and Dutch blood that came to us thru New England, New York and New Jersey should bring with it thrift and economy and the love of work and books. The Virginia, Delaware and Carolina elements should also be credited with a full share of intellectual and refining influences.

Soon after I left college my aunt Jeanette Thruston Powell, of Washington, asked me what profession I had selected, and remarked that "Our Virginia Thrustons had never engaged in trade. They were army or navy officers, or lawyers or planters, but never engaged in trade. I hope, Gates, you will choose one of the professions." I replied, "I expect to be a lawyer, auntie, but I have always been thankful that my Kentucky father was fortunate enough to marry the daughter of an Ohio merchant and banker, and thus bring a little money and love of work into our branch of the Thrustons."

I have often reflected upon this incident that illustrates so well the inherited pride of our old Virginia kindred, but I still think the labor-loving, book-loving strain that came down to us thru Yale, Princeton and New Jersey, is one of the best blessings of our inheritance, and all the more a blessing, if it has given us something of a money-making, money-saving gift—a gift that has much to do with one's peace of mind and happiness in this world, whatever it may threaten in the next. In our American social and business life, the merchant and banker is as useful, as important, and I may say, is usually as much respected, as the man of the profession or of the army.

My old friend, Colonel Garrett, of Nashville, who was justly proud of his Virginia ancestry, once said to me, that upon being introduced to a stranger he hesitated to ask where he came from, lest he might

PLATE XV.



Book Plate of George A. Thruston of Maryland,
Grandson of Buckner Thruston.

not be from old Virginia, and this might embarrass him. The Colonel was evidently jesting, but I think I know a number of Virginians of that type. Down in their heart of hearts they seem to have the conviction, and honestly, too, that there is no other inheritance quite equal to a Virginia birthright.

I confess that during my residence in Tennessee of over forty years, I have often felt sensitive as to the sharp lines of distinction sometimes drawn by the native Tennesseans as to citizens of the north.

I am proud of my adopted State and of its history, but I would have my sons remember that I am equally proud of the great State of Ohio, my native State, which, owing to fortunate circumstances, is still years in advance of Tennessee in the general education of its people, in its system of libraries, the cultivation of the fine arts and advanced industries, in its roadways and in its wealth, which is in a measure the basis of civilization. Ohio also shares honors with Virginia in producing great statesmen and military leaders.

Good blood is a splendid inheritance at the north or south, but a pedigree of pure so-called "blue blood" is of little avail unless supported by sterling qualities of heart and head. As some one has said, "Descent is good, but ascent is better."

I wish my sons to have character enough, energy enough and heart enough to make for themselves a record of honor and usefulness. Anything short of this is failure, and will lower the family standard. Achievement is as necessary to a successful life as ability. Above all, I may say, I desire my sons to be gentlemen, in the true spirit of that often abused and misunderstood word. I trust they may be Christian gentlemen, devoted to a life of duty and service.

The Hon. Charles J. Bonaparte, Secretary of the Navy, in a recent address to the graduating class of midshipmen at Annapolis, quite clearly defined the meaning of the word gentleman in stating that "you young gentlemen have obligations that do not rest upon all the members of this community; that of you are required a measure of self-control, a readiness for self-sacrifice, a sensitiveness to honor, which it might be neither reasonable to expect, nor charitable to exact, of all your fellow citizens. It is a part of your professional duty, a part of the service due your country at your hands, a part of the solemn and eternal obligation of your oaths, that as officers you be known for such simplicity and truth, such modesty of demeanor, and such purity of life as will earn for you the respect of good men."

There is no good reason why any young man of sterling character, liberal education and honest blood should not measure up to this high standard of life and duty.

It is said that one of England's most noble and forceful statesmen frequently lingered in the old family picture gallery in his mansion, absorbed in contemplation of the ancestral portraits upon the walls. His young son had often watched him there.

"They *speak* to me, my son," he said one day, "and you must hear them, too."

"How can they speak, father?" he said. "What can they say?" Pointing to each one, his father replied: "He says, be true to me. He says, be true to your race. He says, be true to yourself, and she, my mother, says, be true to God. They all say, *mobblesse oblige*, my son."

PLATE XVI.



Book Plate of Duncan Clinch Phillips
of Washington, D. C.

ADDENDA.

THE FAMILY OF COL. CHARLES MYNN THRUSTON,
FROM THE OLD RECORD BOOK,
PAGES 67, 68, 69.

COL. CHARLES MYNN THRUSTON in 1760 married Mary Buckner, daughter of Col. Samuel Buckner, of Gloucester County, Va., by whom he had three children.

JOHN, born Oct. 15, 1761, who married Elizabeth Thruston Whiting, of Gloucester County, Virginia, October 13, 1782.

BUCKNER, born February 9, 1764, who married Jeanette January, daughter of Peter January, of Kentucky, in March, 1795.

CHARLES MYNN, born August 3d, 1765, married January 20th, 1795, Mrs. Frances O'Fallon, daughter of John Clark, of Kentucky, and sister of Gen'l George Rogers Clark, of Kentucky, and Gen'l William Clark, of Missouri (of the Lewis and Clark expedition).

After the death of his wife, Mary Buckner, Col. Thruston married Ann Alexander, daughter of Col. Alexander, of Gloucester County, Va., by whom he had eight children, named as follows:

SARAH ALEXANDER, born December 15th, 1766; married George Flowerdieu Norton December 7, 1784.

FREDERICK, born May 15th, 1770.

MARY BUCKNER, born July 3d, 1772; married Col. Charles Magill, of Winchester, Va., May 25, 1792.

FRANCES, born February 3d, 1774; married Mr. Frederick Conrad, of Winchester, Va., April 25th, 1793.

ELIZABETH MYNN, born April 6th, 1775; married Mr. Henry Dangerfield, of Kentucky, August, 10th, 1794.

ALFRED, born May 14th, 1778.

ELOIRA, born March 23d, 1780; married Col. Edward Hanes Taylor, of Kentucky, February, 1797.

SYDNEY ANN, married Hon. Alfred Powell, of Loudon County, Va.

CHILDREN OF JUDGE BUCKNER THRUSTON, SECOND SON OF CHARLES MYNN THRUSTON, AND OF JEANETTE JANUARY THRUSTON.

GENERAL CHARLES MYNN THRUSTON, of Cumberland, Md.; married Julianna Hughes, of Baltimore, Md.

THOMAS LEE THRUSTON, of Washington, D. C., Librarian of the State Department; married Sarah Ward, daughter of Governor T. Ward, of New Jersey.

ROBERT ALEXANDER THRUSTON, of Dayton, Ohio, born in Lexington, Ky., 1806; married Marianna L. Phillips Sept. 29th, 1832.

ALFRED BUCKNER THRUSTON, of Washington, D. C.; married Fanny Magill, of Winchester, Va.

WILLIAM THRUSTON, of Washington; unmarried; died in 1880.

SIDNEY THRUSTON; married Hon. Wm. A. Bradley, of Washington, D. C. He was Mayor, also Postmaster of that city.

JEANETTE JANUARY THRUSTON; married her second cousin, Levin Mynn Powell, of Winchester, Va., of the U. S. Navy, later Rear Admiral, U. S. N.

PATENT OF THE ARMES OF JOHN THRUSTON
OF HOXNE, COUNTY OF SUFFOLKE.

To all and singular, to whome this present shall come:

WILLIAM DETRICK, also Garter Principall, King of Armes, Chieffe officer of armes, for the most noble Order of the Garter, signifieth with due commendation and greetings: For as much as it is very expedient and through all countries, nations, and well governed commonwealths observed, that the virtuous are commended, and had in perpetual remembrance, and the valient and worthie renownd, and rewarded especiallie, and in all tymes, those that either by their virtuous behavior, and endeavor are employed and have persevered in dutiful service to their frynds and countrie; whereas we are by virtue of office and functions respectivelie, to take notice and make remembrance, in this age, and in this happie estate, and government, under the Queen's Most Excellent Majestie for the advancynge of condigne and worthy persons to be known and assembled to the number and society of those who have been approved, and descended of like virtuous and valient and worthie and ancient personages, to the ende that they, flourishing during their lives, the light of them may shyne, continue, and take increase in their children, and issue generallye, to be discerned and known by such laudable ensynes of honor in shield, coate, armes, or atchievement of armes, which principall particularie descendynge to them by proof of ancient parentage. * * * * *

Wherefore being credibly informed, and for myne owne knowledge by acquaintance with the partie himselfe, and by the records touchinge theire armes, assured, that JOHN THRUSTON, of Hoxne, in the County of Suffolke, Gentleman, being descended

of that name and familie of Thruston of Anderton, in the County of Lancaster, Gentleman, hath inhabited and continued in good worshipful reputation longe tyme within said County of Suffolke, Do declare, confirm and ratify by these presents unto the said John Thruston, of Suffolke, Gent, these armes and atchievements, anciently appropriated to his name, kyndred and parentage in manner and form following:

That is to say: In a shield of sable, three bugle horns and laces and tassels goulde, garnished azure, and to his crest cognizance, a white storke with blue legges, standing on a wreath of yellow and blacke, sett upon a helmit of steele, with mantles and tassells of argent, and gules, as more plainly appeareth depicted in this argent.

To have and to hold the said armes, crest and cognizance belonging and appertaining to the said John Thruston aforesaid, from his said ancestors, Gentlemen, to use and dispose of the same and everie part thereof, without lett or hindrance or interruption from any man, in all virtuous, laudable and accustomed manner forever.

Given at my house, within the office of armes, near the Cathedral Church of Sante Paule, London, the tenth day of February in the nyne and twentieth year of the reyne of our sovrein Queen Elizabeth, by the Grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faithe, and in the year a thousand five hundred four score and sixe.

WILLIAM DETHICK GARTER,
Principalle Kinge of Armes.

The foregoing patent of arms was copied by G. P. T. from the original patent in the possession of Charles Frederick Thruston, of Talgarth Hall, Mac-hynlleth, Wales. The family book plates and arms are shown on the succeeding three pages.



